



# INSPIRE

JUNE 2022



**“Let your light so shine before men, that they might see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16**

## Some great views!

At the beginning of our week in Anglesey during May, we decided to have a trip on the Ffestiniog railway in North Wales. We booked tickets for the Thursday that being the sunniest day according to the weather forecast. We boarded the steam hauled carriages at Porthmadog and enjoyed the journey to Beddgelert. An hour to wander around the village and then back to Porthmadog. As always, there was something glorious and nostalgic about the experience. The sounds and smells of a steam engine under load as the train climbed towards Beddgelert brought back memories of earlier steam hauled journeys, including the Flying Scotsman from London to York in the 1990s. As the train made its way through wooded areas, we caught glimpses of the engine as tight bends were negotiated. And the views of Snowdonia were fantastic.

Our enjoyment of the trip overcame the harsh reality that the seats were uncomfortable, and when going through tunnels, the carriage quickly filled with sooty smoke. It also took 45 minutes to travel about 8 miles! Great fun for a holiday experience, but I think I prefer current day travel opportunities.

As Christians, we recognise the importance of having a clear understanding of what God has done in the past, both globally and in our individual lives. It lays the foundations of our praise and worship, our understanding of God's grace and actions in dealing with our sins, and the source of hope for our eternal future. A clear understanding of what Jesus has done through the cross and resurrection motivates our mission and enables us to share the good news about Jesus in words as well as sharing God's love through our good works. The scriptures encourage us to praise God with thanksgiving for everything that he has done in the past, but to also focus on living in the present with complete confidence about the future which is in God's hands. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

This month we celebrate Pentecost when God has sent the promised Holy Spirit on those gathered in Jerusalem. As Christians, we need to grasp and have a clear understanding about this remarkable transformational source of power, available to all believers, *"is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 1:19-20).* Attempting to live as effective Christians without drawing on the power of God's Spirit is like hoping a steam engine will work without fire and water.

Our return journey by car to Anglesey took us towards Llanberis. We were blessed that with a clear sky and sunshine, we had amazingly clear views of the summit of Snowdon. That wouldn't have been the case on any other day that week!

The writer of Hebrews urges us to *"fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith"*. Treasure those days and moments when we can see Jesus with absolute clarity. Praise God for them - bank the experience to draw on when our view of Jesus is less clear, perhaps hazy or even hidden. This may be because of circumstances, challenges, or just the business of life. Or perhaps we are looking in the wrong direction! The mountains of Snowdonia were there whether we could see them or not! God is always there - Jesus is always there - the power of the Spirit is always there!

Paul reminds us that *"We live by faith, not by sight"* (2 Corinthians 5:7). The writer of Hebrews says *"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see"* (Hebrews 11:1).

Praise God that our past, present, and future are all in his hands.

*David Harvey*



## Statement to the Church regarding future ministry

A couple of weeks ago we announced that the Trustees were considering a further name for the pastorate here at Belper Baptist Church. Having prayerfully considered the profile, the Trustees felt it appropriate to meet with the person concerned to seek God's will together regarding future ministry. Following that meeting, the Trustees unanimously and enthusiastically agreed that we should invite this person to formally meet with the church and so we wanted to give you a bit of information ahead of time so that as a church we can bring this before God for clarity as we collectively seek His will.

Because of this person's circumstances we can advise you of his name as he is someone known to our fellowship. The person we are considering is Reverend Dr Robert Foster, husband of Liz and Dad to Hannah. This may come as quite a surprise as many will be aware that Robert is a Methodist minister. The Trustees have spent some considerable time investigating the practicalities and legalities of the church employing someone who is currently a Methodist minister, and have determined that there is nothing to prevent this in our constitution or other legal documents.

For complete transparency in this matter, Liz Foster has withdrawn from the settlement process because of the obvious conflict of interest and has not been involved in any of the discussions around the consideration of Robert to be the minister of this church.

The Trustees have asked Robert to come to "preach with a peek" and formally meet the church as a prospective candidate for the ministry here at Belper. The date set for this visit is Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of June. There will be a normal service, followed by a fellowship lunch and question and answer session where all of the burning questions you are bound to have will hopefully be answered.

Please can we ask that you don't approach Liz or Robert directly before then to ask them about this. The situation is unusual in that Liz is a member of our church, but we should follow the process that we would follow for any other applicant for the post. Also, please don't ask the Trustees direct questions. If you have questions, please come to the meeting with Robert prepared to ask them or give questions to Jonny who will collate them.

And finally, please do pray into this situation that we clearly hear God's will in this.

## Cycling the Camino Way



On May 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike and I embarked on cycling the 500 miles Pilgrim route that takes you from St Jean-Pied-de-Port in the French Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela on west corner of northern Spain, the reputed burial site of the apostle James. Millions of people have made this journey over the centuries mostly on foot and, more recently, on bikes for a variety of reasons. For some it's the physical challenge, for others it's more a personal religious experience and many see it as an opportunity to just take a break from the busyness of their lives. For us it was a bit of all those reasons and we had prayed to be open to God-incidents and blessings along the way.

Over the 13 days we took to complete the journey, we encountered not one drop of rain (blessing 1), we had not reserved any accommodation and we were carrying our 5kg kit in paniers so wherever we stopped were able to find a bed for the night (blessing 2).

The terrain we encountered varied greatly. Big ascents (4500ft) at the beginning and end of the trip and 3 days of flat plains in the middle. I found myself thinking how a Christian life can be filled with ups and downs with obstacles that seem impossible to get over, but God is faithful in his promises to provide the strength when we need it and to carry the burdens when they seem too heavy to bear.

We saw God's kindness and generosity in people we met and shared time with and we felt joy in seeing such beauty in the scenery and landscapes we cycled through.





The way of St James as it can also be called takes you through many small villages and towns that were established to serve the first Pilgrims and as such each have churches planted there. It would have been impossible to stop at them all but there was one that was particularly beautiful and simple dating back to 13<sup>th</sup> century which had a prayer station with bibles in many languages and a place to write and leave personal prayer requests, it really felt a spiritual place to sit and feel peaceful. At the other end of the scale, we toured Leon Cathedral, a grand elaborate place of worship with the most stunning collection of stained-glass windows that allowed amazing light to fill the internal space, drawing your gaze upwards to admire the gothic archways.

We arrived at Santiago de Compostela midday Saturday, collected our certificates, returned rental bicycles to the local shop and 9.30pm thunder, lightning and rain! Sunday, we went to mass at the Cathedral, packed and witnessed the swinging of the incense chalice very close by. This along with the choir made for a very moving and spiritual service even though nearly all was in Spanish.

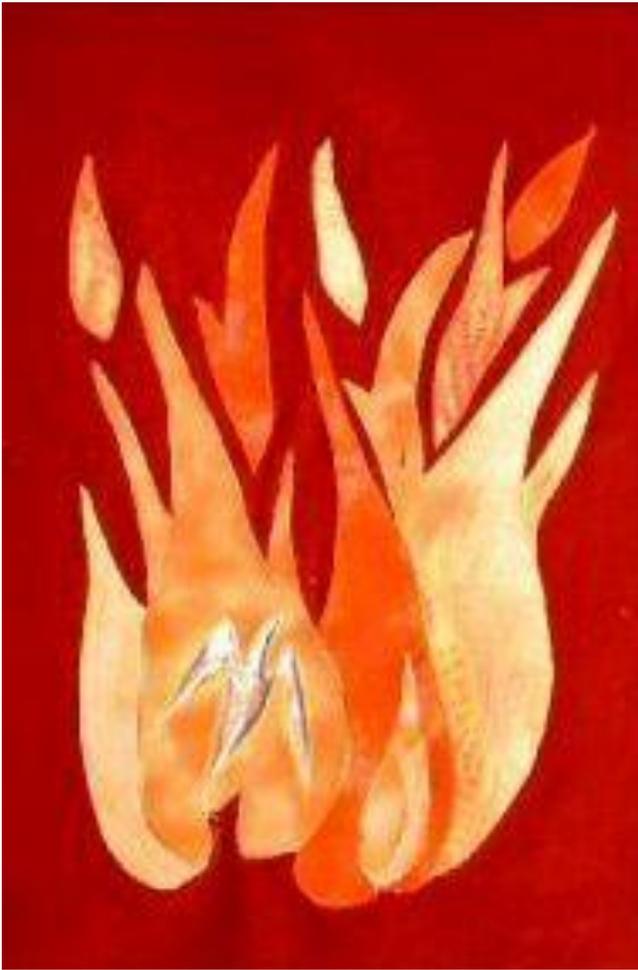
- Jane & Mike Saqui

PS. The guide book is available if you wish to go!



## Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.



The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.

Whose mother tongue is Love in every nation

*Malcolm Guite*

## Dates for your Diary – June

- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Morning Service:10.30am – Leading: David Harvey, Preaching: Derek Allan
- Weds 8<sup>th</sup> Craft and Chat: 9.30-11.30am
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> All Age Service : 10.30am -Leading: Team **Preaching: Robert Foster**  
**Followed by a shared lunch and Question and Answer Session.**
- Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Craft and Chat: 9.30-11.30am
- Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Church Meeting: 7.30pm
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Communion: 9.30-11.30am -Leading: Jenny Lesley, Preaching: Greg Hall
- Weds 22<sup>nd</sup> Craft and Chat: 9.30-11.30am
- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Morning Service 10:30am -Leading: Jean Harvey, Preaching: David Harvey
- Weds 29<sup>th</sup> Craft and Chat:9.30-11.30am



## Notices

### Sunday Services:

Sunday services have resumed in the building but any who cannot come in person will also be able to join via Zoom using the details below:

You can join by visiting <https://zoom.us/j/3431622013>

... or using the Zoom app and meeting ID 3431622013

... or phone (0330) 0885830 and enter the meeting ID 3431622013 then #

The meeting password is 1893

Please pray during the week for those who are due to lead, preach and cover the technical aspects of the service. Also please pray for all those who lead the online children's work before, during and after the service.

### Prayer Meetings

There will be daily prayer meetings at 7.30am every weekday morning and 9am on weekends and bank holidays – using the following Zoom details: Meeting ID: 899 0084 1018 / Password: 1893

### Food and Community Hub:

We have **many gaps** so if you are shopping in the near future and could donate one of these items we would be very grateful:

Tinned Potatoes and Packets of Mash

Tinned Fruit

Steamed Puddings

Rice pudding

Tinned Meat Meals e.g: curry, chilli

Fray Bentos style pies

Vegetarian Meals

Corned Beef/Cooked Ham, Hotdog sausages

Toilet Rolls, in smaller packs preferably

Tea, Coffee

Sugar

Shampoo

Wrapped cake bars and biscuits

UHT Milk

Cat and dog food