



September 2021

Content

Any views expressed are those of the contributor and are not necessarily the opinion of the church or its leadership.



Planning Ahead

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11)

We love this verse from Jeremiah because it encourages us to know that God has positive plans for us. These words of hope and promise appear in a letter addressed to God's people living in exile in Babylon. Jeremiah tells them that the Lord will keep his gracious promise and restore them to their homeland. This will happen after 70 years have passed. In the meantime, the people are to get on with life. They are to build houses and settle down, plant gardens, and eat what they produce, marry and have children, and find husbands and wives for them. They are to ignore false prophets who speak of an earlier return. One of our Regional Ministers commented recently that this was an exhortation to "*flourish where you are*", trusting God for the future, for God will deliver his promises and plans in his time.

During the Covid pandemic, legal restrictions and sensible precautions have until recently excluded us from a range of activities and from meeting up with families, friends, and having in person fellowship as a church. We have been living "*in exile*" from the opportunities and experiences we had before. Whilst many things are getting back to how they were, there is still a degree of caution and a "*new normal*" is emerging. Living with Covid will mean that further challenges will come along.

We hold to the promise that God has plans for us. He will reveal those and bring them to fruition in his time. In the meantime, the instructions given through Jeremiah to a people in exile should perhaps strike a chord with us. With the living presence of God in our lives, we can "*flourish where we are*", resting in the promise of Jesus "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10 NIV) – "have it more abundantly" (NKJV).

We can also "*flourish where we are*" during change. September is a time for new beginnings particularly for children and their parents. For some there are new schools, new subjects, and for most new routines to get used to. Everything learned in previous years is valuable but a new period in an educational journey is starting. I have a distinct sense that September also marks the start of a new phase of our journey as a church.

Firstly, we are encouraging folk to attend our morning services in the church building if at all possible. It is time to get back to the pre Covid blessings of corporate worship and in person fellowship. Zoom has been great since lockdown began and we recognise that for some it will continue to be the only way of joining in our services. Being together in person is better. Already we have rediscovered the joy of live music and singing and chatting with people face to face, even when wearing masks. So please come along and reconnect with others. There will also be plenty of opportunities to serve God helping with the many jobs that need to be done to sustain church life.

Secondly, the trustees have set in motion the process of sharing with the wider baptist family that we are seeking to appoint a new minister. The draft Church Profile was signed off at the July Church meeting. After consultation with our Regional Minister, Mike Fegredo, it has now been published on the BU Ministry Settlement system web site which can be viewed by all Accredited Baptist Ministers and students in training. We

have asked for expressions of interest by the end of September. Please pray that the one God has chosen will respond. Please pray for the trustees as we review expressions of interest and have initial discussions with prospective Ministers. The whole church will of course be involved in the final selection process.

Thirdly, at the AGM on 13 October Members will be invited to appoint a new leadership team. As set out in this edition of Inspire, all the existing trustees must retire. The nomination process is explained. Please prayerfully consider who you believe God is calling to be the leadership team in the church. Please don't assume that someone else is nominating people. The new leadership team will have a vital role in steering the process of calling a new Minister as well as discerning God's plans for us in the short term.

Times of change can be stressful and unsettling. They also create opportunities to re-evaluate and reset personal priorities, to discern God's purposes and callings on our individual and collective lives. It does feel like the time for a reset, to move on from the limitations imposed by COVID whilst still doing the right things to keep us safe. We seek to move forward with gratitude to God for his grace and goodness to us during difficult and frustrating times. It is time to *"flourish where we are"*.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart". (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

David Harvey

CRAFT AND CHAT - WEDNESDAY MORNINGS FROM 22nd SEPTEMBER

This group is a chance to bring some kind of craft project that you are working on and come and have a cuppa and a chat. As the weeks go on we'll be asking local crafters to come in and share their skills. All welcome. 9.30 to 11.30am at church. Any queries please contact Jenny Lesley or Lorraine Bolger.



Election of Church Trustees 2021

The church constitution requires that at the first AGM of the church as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), all the trustees (except any Minister) must retire and new elections held to appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer (both annual appointments), and up to a maximum of 6 elected trustees who will serve in the role of Deacon (for up to 3 years).

The procedures for nominating and electing trustees are set out in the constitution and in the Church Handbook (Section 4.7 pages 9-11). The Handbook is easier to read and follow.

The retiring trustees are:

Secretary	Raymond Lesley
Treasurer	David Harvey

Elected Trustees

Julia Bell
Lorraine Bolger
Liz Foster
Jo Lambourne
Nico Prinsloo
Jonny White

All the above are “eligible” to be nominated, but each individual will need to be approached to establish whether they are willing to be nominated for a further term.

Election Process

- The election of trustees will take place during the AGM scheduled for 13 October 2021. This will be held in the Church building.
- Nominations will be formally invited at services on Sunday 12 and Sunday 19 September 2021. Nominations will close at midnight on Sunday 26th September 2021 three Sundays before the AGM.
- The request for nominations will identify the number of vacancies.
- Names of those nominated will be published prior to the services on 3 and 10 October.
- Voting at the AGM will be by secret ballot of those attending the meeting in the building.
- To be elected, a candidate must receive votes from at least 70% of those members voting.
- Appropriate procedures will be in place to ensure a majority of the trustees are persons baptised as believers by immersion and to resolve any issues arising from there being more candidates than vacancies.

Eligibility for nomination as trustee

- Must not be disqualified from acting as a Charity trustee.
- Must be over the age of 16 years
- Not a close family member (spouse, parent, child, sibling) of a serving trustee. (Notwithstanding that all serving trustees have retired, nominations that conflict with this principle will not be accepted).

- At all times a majority of trustees must have been baptised as believers by immersion. The nomination form will ask nominees to confirm their baptismal status.

Nomination Process

- Nomination forms will be available at Church and available to download from the church website.
- Church Members wishing to nominate someone must approach them personally and establish the nominee's willingness to serve as a trustee.
- The nomination must be supported by two further Church Members.
- The signatures of the nominee, proposer and two supporters should be added to a single copy of the nomination form and submitted to the Church Secretary** not later than midnight on Sunday 26 September 2021. The form can be submitted as a hard copy or as a scanned email attachment.
- In exceptional circumstances, and *by prior agreement with the Church Secretary*, a partially completed nomination form supported by emails will be accepted subject to all the relevant information being provided and confirmation from the nominee that he/she is willing to be nominated. Responsibility for completing this process rests with the person making the nomination.
- No Church Member can nominate more candidates than there are vacancies

**** In the absence of the Church Secretary fully completed forms can be handed to David Harvey**

Dates for your Diary – September

Sunday 5th - Morning Service 10.30am: Leading - Jean Harvey, Preaching- David Harvey

Sunday 12th - Morning Service 10:30am: Leading - Jonny White, Preaching -Derek Allan

Sunday 19th - Harvest & Communion 10:30am: Leading - Jonny White, Preaching - David Harvey

Wednesday 22nd – Craft and Chat. 9.30-11.30am

Sunday 26th - All Age service 10:30am – All age team

Wednesday 29th – Craft and Chat. 9.30-11.30am

Sunday 26th – Final nominations date for Trustee election

Notices

REMINDER

There will not be another issue of Inspire for a month so please keep the Zoom login details to hand.

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 new 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 eg curry, chilli etc.

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

Tuna

UHT Milk

If you are able to donate any of these items, it would be much appreciated. All of the Co-op stores in Belper have donation points.