



## Issue 22 – 22nd August 2020

### Welcome to this edition of Inspire

Inspire is an opportunity for us all to share with, and encourage each other with testimony, scripture, inspirational thoughts, teaching or a picture - anything to bless and encourage. Please send all contributions to me, Jenny, via:

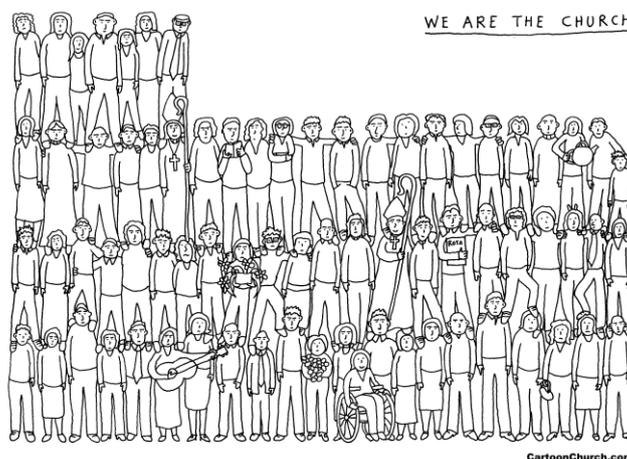
- email at [inspire@belperbaptist.org](mailto:inspire@belperbaptist.org)
- or via WhatsApp on 07500780426

and they will be sent out each weekend via email, WhatsApp and by letter to those without Internet access. There is also a dedicated page on our website. [www.belperbaptist.org](http://www.belperbaptist.org)

### Content

As this will be on our website and circulated via WhatsApp we need to be careful about content. For example personal detail or political content will not be published. Any views expressed are those of the contributor and are not necessarily the opinion of the church or its leadership.

### Church is not the building - we are!



CartoonChurch.com

## Taking the right path!

On our recent holiday to parts of Norfolk and Suffolk, we used the car's Sat Nav to guide us to various destinations. It was also useful to check the route it plotted against the direction signs to those places at significant junctions. This proved particularly useful on two occasions where new dual carriageway roads have been built, Sat Nav indicating that we were driving through the middle of farmer's fields.

The places we visited had an array of additional signs this year, all designed to encourage people to enter and leave buildings using controlled one-way systems with sanitisers and contact tracing arrangements. It surprised us how many times people stopped at the sign on the door that said "no entry" – appeared to read it – and then opened the door and went in. We can but speculate whether this was a failure to understand the instruction, an objection to the minor inconvenience of having to take a slightly longer route, or deliberate defiance.

Of course, we have all experienced road and other signs that don't appear to make much sense. And as drivers, we clearly have an instinct that tells us that there must be a short cut that Sat Nav doesn't know about! Maybe we have an inbuilt resistance to obeying instructions wherever they come from, seeing them as impinging on our personal liberty.

As I watched how some people responded to quite simple signs, I found myself reflecting on the challenge that we face in convincing people, including ourselves sometimes, that obedience to God's word will bring about a more fulfilled life for everyone as individuals, and a better world in which we and our loved ones can flourish.

The Psalmist understood this *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path". (Psalm 119:105).*

*"Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors." (Psalm 27:11).*

Towards the end of his life as leader of the people of Israel, and before God led them into the promised land under Joshua's leadership, Moses said *" For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess." (Deuteronomy 30:16).*

Jesus said <sup>9</sup> *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.* <sup>10</sup> *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.* <sup>11</sup> *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* <sup>12</sup> *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.* <sup>13</sup> *Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.* <sup>14</sup> *You are my friends if you do what I command. (John 15:9-14).*

On holiday, we went for a walk in Sheringham Country Park. With limited time before they locked the car park gates, we decided to follow one of the shorter way-marked paths. All went well until we found ourselves outside the park faced with signs that said no route back to the visitor centre. We had been chatting, people watching, and had quite consciously followed a group of walkers in front of us. We had not realised that they were going to a different place! We had also missed a significant way-marked path sign. We retraced our steps and found the right path. Significantly it was a lot steeper and rougher than the path we had followed by mistake.

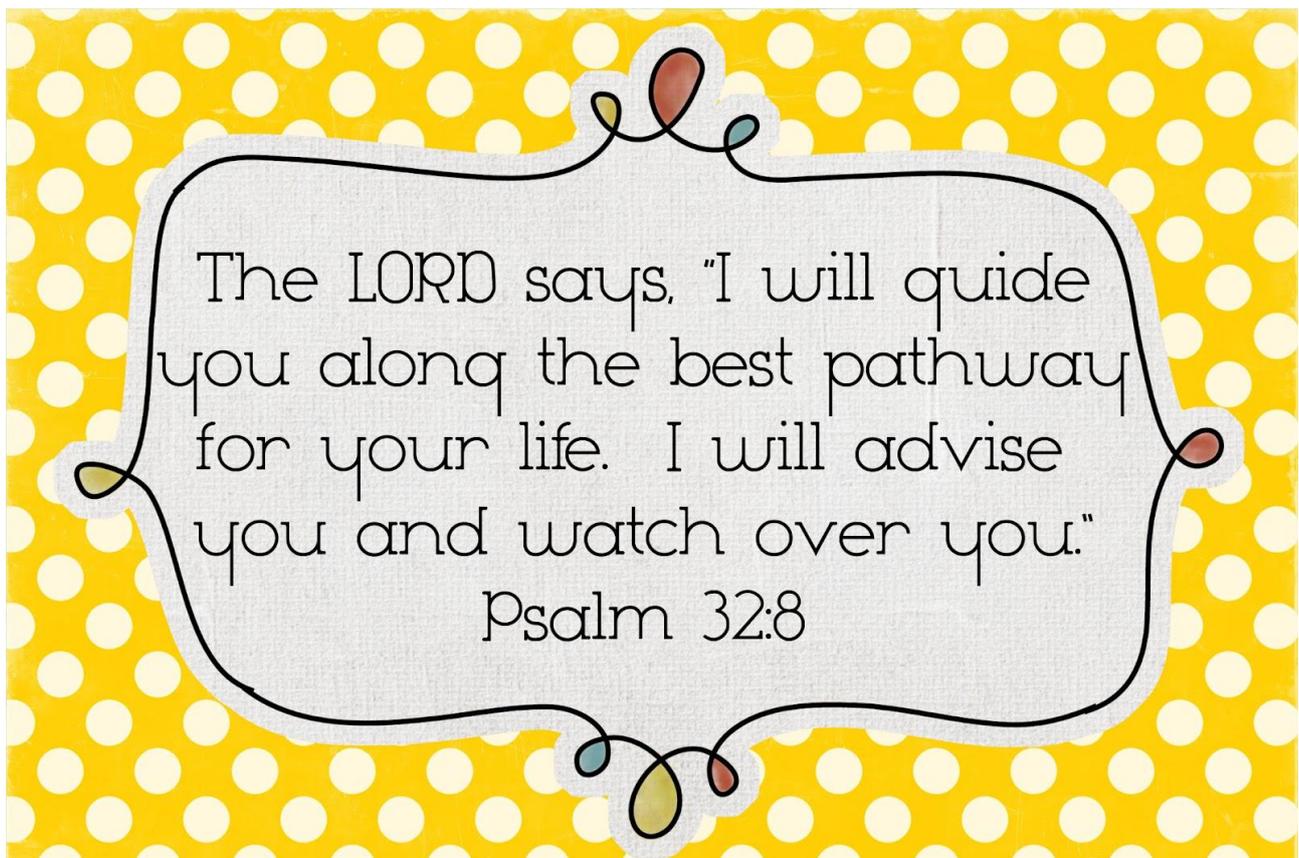
In seeking to walk in God's ways and in obedience to his Word, it is easy to be distracted, to miss the signs, to follow those around us. And sometimes, doing the right thing or responding to challenging situations with grace, compassion and forgiveness is a steeper rougher and more painful route to take. Jesus made no secret of the cost of discipleship – *"<sup>24</sup> If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. (Matthew 16:24).*

Praise God that he has given us His Word – a consistent source of truth and guidance in a world full of uncertainty and confusion. And at its heart is not a burden of unrealistic rules and regulations but a call to live a life of love inspired by God's love for us.

*"<sup>4</sup> It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. <sup>5</sup> And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.*

*<sup>6</sup> And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. (2 John 1:4-6)*

**David Harvey**



## CIO Briefing Episode 6 – An important update

I am pleased to be able to tell you that on 10 August 2020, Belper Baptist Church was entered on the Charity Commission's Register of Charities.

This is a significant step in our process of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The fact that our application to be registered has been accepted by the Charity Commission recognises the thoroughness of the work that we all did leading up to the approval of a new CIO Constitution at the Special Church Meeting in June 2020.

There is still much to do before Belper Baptist Church becomes a CIO. The next stage is an application to the Charity Commission to transfer the assets of the church to the CIO. Until that process is complete the CIO remains inactive. There is also a process to go through to add the newly elected trustees to the list of CIO trustees.

The transfer application process will require me to liaise with various organisations who have links with the church including the bank, utility providers, accountants, Amber Valley BC, and our insurers. Each will either confirm that they are willing to simply transfer the existing accounts or contracts to the new CIO or they might require new accounts and contracts to be set up. As you can imagine, this will take some time and will be difficult to complete until I can tie down a date at which the CIO will come into existence.

My priority is to obtain approval from the Baptist Pension Fund Trustees to transfer the historic pension deficit to the new CIO. Without their approval, we cannot proceed to the next stage as to do so would trigger a "cessation event" at which point the church's total deficit would become payable. This is a situation we must avoid. I applied to the Baptist Pension Fund Trustees for permission back in June, sending a lot of financial information and I am now chasing them for a response. They need to be satisfied that the CIO will have sufficient funds to pay the deficit payments. There is also a legal problem in transferring pension deficits during an Interregnum when we don't have anyone in the current pension scheme. I am consulting with them on how we might get around this.

I hope that you are encouraged by the fact that our application for registration was approved, and that you will now be patient as I work with the trustees to complete the process. I will update you at significant points along the way. I continue to hope that we can become a CIO by late 2020 or early 2021.

*David Harvey*

## Fruits of the Spirit – “I need more joy Lord!”

Galatians 5 tells us we are to walk by the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. We know that as believers we have the Holy Spirit living in us. Galatians continues to tell us that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is a biblical term that sums up nine attributes of a person or community living with the Holy Spirit. I know there are times when it can be hard to display these attributes. Recently, under lockdown rules, it has been hard to feel joyful! But there are verses in the Bible that can help us deal with negative feelings, enabling the Holy Spirit to work in us so we can show the fruits of the Spirit to others. As you pray and seek God, he will help you recognise which fruits need some nurturing. I hope that reading verses below will enable the Holy Spirit to speak to you through them. Read them aloud and believe the truths to break free from negative emotions, and in doing so the Fruits of the Spirit can grow in you.

*Julia Bell*

Fruits of the spirit	Feelings of:	Bible verses		
LOVE GENTLENESS	Insecurity Self-Worth Doubt Unforgiveness Bitterness	1 Peter 5:7 2 Timothy 1:7 Luke 12:7 Isaiah 43:25-26 Ephesians 1:7 Psalms 139:14	Philippians 4:9 Acts 8:23 Matthew 6: 25-27 Isaiah 1:18 Hebrews 12:15 Numbers 14:19-21	1 John 4:7 -21 Matthew 6:14-15 Colossians 3:13 Ephesians 4:31-32 2 Corinthians 5:17
JOY KINDNESS GOODNESS	Loneliness Grief Sadness	Psalms 142 Romans 8:38-39 Psalms 68:4 6 Deuteronomy 31:6 John 15:11	Psalms 62 Isaiah 41:10 1 Samuel 12:2 2 Corinthians 4:17	Joshua 1:7-9 Genesis 2:18 Psalms 73:25-26 John 14:1
PEACE	Anxiety Fear Worry Pain Addiction	1 Peter 5:7 Joshua 1:9 Psalms 94:19 Isaiah 35:4	1 Peter 3:14 2 Timothy 1:7 Psalms 56:8 John 8:32	Philippians 4:19 John 14:27 Deuteronomy 31:8 Isaiah 41:10
PATIENCE	Jealousy Envy Discontent	James 4:11 Proverbs 14:30 James 4:2-3 Psalms 37:1 -3	Psalms 143:8-9 Romans 12:21 Psalms 139:14 Ecclesiastes 4:4	1 Corinthians 10:13 1 Corinthians 3:3 Galatians 5:22-23
FAITHFULNESS	Trust	Psalms 91:1-2 Psalms 37:3-6	Proverbs 3:5-6 Psalm 56:3-4, 11	Isaiah 26:4 Psalms 33:4-5
SELF – CONTROL	Addiction Negative Talk Gossip	1 John 2:16 Psalms 50:15 1 Corinthians 6:8-11 1 Corinthians 10:13-14	Galatians 5:1 James 4:7	Romans 8:1 1 Corinthians 15:33

## Fruit of the Spirit: The Banana of Patience

The banana of patience. That's what my son told me I need to grow more of.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23*

I wish I was more patient, I really should work on controlling my anger, I need to be gentler when I talk, I've decided I'm going to have joy every day. Ever had thoughts similar to these? You hear these attributes of a good person and, feeling despondent because you know you don't hit the mark, you determine to work on them, maybe all of them like a vague unattainable cloud, or single-mindedly one by one.

But then you read it again and realise that it's fruit of the Spirit. You are the tree – a tree doesn't work hard at growing fruit, all it needs to do is stand firm in good soil and be watered and it will produce beautiful, delicious mangoes, guavas, oranges, apples. We stand firm in the truth of God's word and let the Holy Spirit produce fruit in our lives.

But we aren't quite satisfied with that answer, we still feel like we ought to contribute something, work at it. If you've grown up in the UK like me, then you've been told that if you want to get good at something, then you have to practice, you have to set your mind to something, you have to work harder.

But what does Jesus say our work is?

*Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.' John 6:28-29*

I had a lightbulb moment about this when Amie was talking during the children's Zoom on Sunday. Working harder at being kind is not going to make me a kinder person. Choosing five people to be kind to this week is not going to make me a kinder person.

As human beings, we never think we have enough. We always think we could do with a slightly higher salary, or a slightly bigger house or car, or just a few more clothes, or more toilet roll / tins of tomatoes / pasta in the cupboard. Then we would be in a position to be more generous with what we have. Children have to be taught to share and not hoard toys at playgroup, it doesn't come naturally.

And that doesn't just apply to our stuff, it applies to our emotions and qualities too. In the Self Preservation Society, we can be wary of giving away too much kindness, because we don't want to be somehow taken advantage of. We are willing to be kind up to a point, but we want to remain fully in control, it's on our terms. I can be patient with you, but at some stage my patience will run out. I can be faithful, but when my faith in you is let down time and again, isn't it time to stop?

But as a child of God, you begin to realise that you have more than enough of all these things in him. In the kingdom of God, there is no scarcity. There are no empty shelves on the peace and goodness aisles, they are constantly being replenished.

When we get our heads around just how much we have been given in Christ, then our whole attitudes will begin to change and we will start looking at the world the right way up. We

won't need to try to be patient or kind or good any more, it will start to happen - bear fruit - because of God in us.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2*

I've heard the testimonies of people imprisoned in North Korea and communist Romania just for being Christians and the brutality they have been subjected to. But the thing that struck me most was that in their suffering they were actually confronted by the depths of their own sin, their own rebellion against God, but also the mind-blowing grace of the God who loves them and died for them. Faced with the reality that they had nothing left, they could truly start to comprehend the boundless love that God has for them.

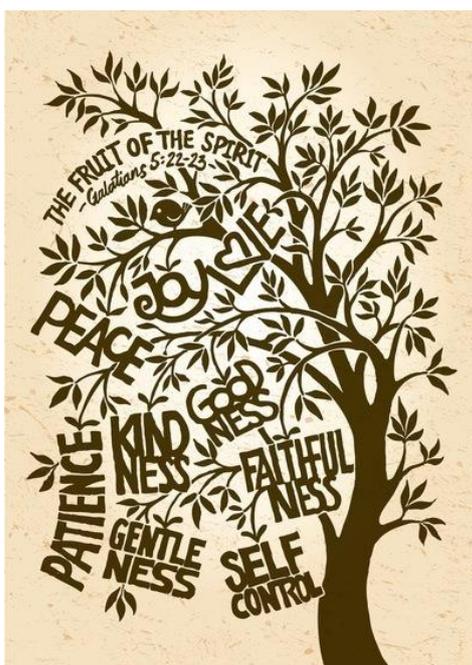
So, we don't need to be the old man living a dilapidated cottage wearing threadbare clothes and eating beans every day yet owning millions in the bank but too cautious to spend any of it. Our spiritual fortune will literally never run out.

*Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' John 4:13-14*

So, what is our work? To believe him. Pray for God to blow your mind.

*This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: if our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us. 1 John 3:19-24*

*Alison Gilmour*



# Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

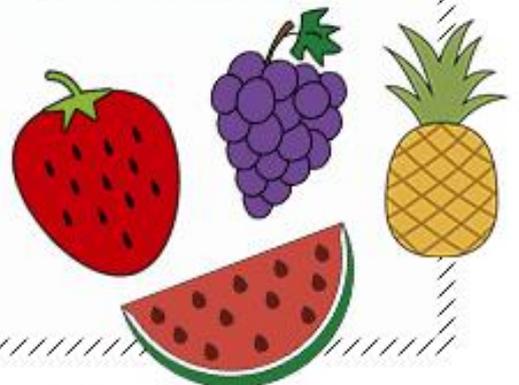


## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

P E A C E L B O G X L R M G I K H P X S  
U L O W T F L T O I K H U K J E R T U M  
I M P D P G N Y G K Y V M H O U F R T C  
K T A K C J O V Q V A T C P Y T A Z M N  
P I T D S K T O W X P B D J W D I T U F  
B I I R X Y K Z D A F L H I E Q T S K S  
U T E U M P I G E N J Y Z S B Z H D Q I  
Q P N Y O M X S X J E X U E X T F E H H  
W I C M U L G V D H S S M W L G U Z V Q  
N Q E V V P I Y U C G N S Q D A L C M D  
C T L A J N Y O N G N P Q V Y C N A A X  
N S S G E N T L E N E S S C Y K E V G X  
T B B N Z Z V T S G K L C D C W S M B I  
H M N N T O F F Z A H C Y Z V U S G L P  
D S E L F C O N T R O L Z J K N H Y E L  
Y R W H V G R D D Q T P W M W D C P T O  
N Q A M P H Q U O H V M P Y D E E Z T V  
I H W Z J M X L T D C A M C B V D W D E  
I Z K I N D N E S S T T A R C H R M P O  
J R I Q T K O P J X K T Q K K L B U Q N

PATIENCE  
FAITHFULNESS  
SELF-CONTROL  
KINDNESS  
GENTLENESS

PEACE  
JOY  
GOODNESS  
LOVE



For more free Bible resources and Teacher Packs including coloring pages  
and worksheets, visit our website: [www.biblepathwayadventures.com](http://www.biblepathwayadventures.com)

## Notices

### **Sunday Services:**

Firstly, a reminder of the Sunday morning online service details:

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

### **Prayer Meetings:**

There will be daily prayer meetings at 8 o'clock every morning and weekly on Tuesdays at 7pm – using the Zoom details as above.

### **Wednesday Drop-In:**

There will a drop in via Zoom this Wednesday at 11.30am. All welcome.

### **Food and Community Hub:**

Hope for Belper give their thanks for the continued support of the Hub. People's generosity has kept it well stocked. At the moment there is a shortage of:

- Tins: fruit, Carnation style milk, Carrots, Mixed Veg
- Sponge Pudding
- Cereals
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Biscuits, snacks, chocolate
- Toilet Rolls

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.

### **Appeal from Phil for Age UK**

If you have any empty soap dispensers that you are about to throw away or recycle, please could you save them for my work with Age UK Derby & Derbyshire. We decant large bottles of hand sanitiser for the shops and are running out of empty bottles!! If you have any empty bottles, please let me know and I can arrange to pick them up. Thank you very much.

Phil Brown.

## Diary : 23rd – 29th August 2020

All this week's activities are being held online. These use the normal church Zoom meeting ID unless indicated otherwise. The Zoom meeting is usually open 5-10 minutes before the stated start time.

### Sunday

08:00 Prayers (online)  
10:30 Morning Worship (online)

### Monday

08:00 Prayers (online)

### Tuesday

08:00 Prayers (online)  
19:00 Prayers (online)

### Wednesday

08:00 Prayers (online)  
19:15 House Group (online)

### Thursday

08:00 Prayers (online)  
20:00 House Group (online)

### Friday

08:00 Prayers (online)

### Saturday

08:00 Prayers (online)