



Issue 23 – 29th 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:

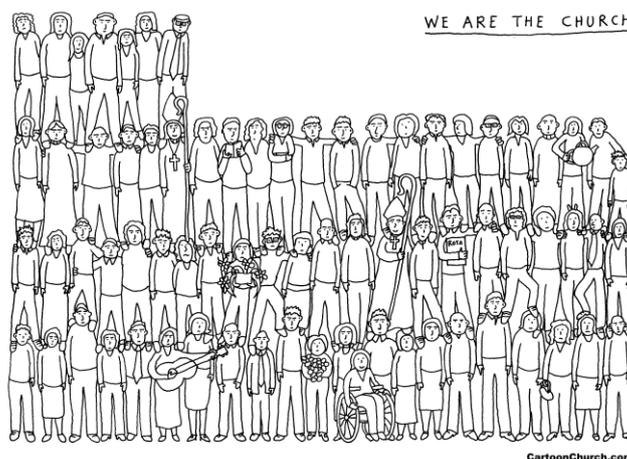
- email at inspire@belperbaptist.org
- or via WhatsApp on 07500780426

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

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 For example personal detail or political content will not be published.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

God is with us

September is nearly here! For some the summer weeks and months have gone all too quickly. For others it will have seemed like an eternity facing daily and weekly struggles.

September is a month that brings new opportunities and challenges for many. Our two 16-year old grandsons start at new 6th form colleges, a new school or class experience shared by many others. Children & young people staying at the same school will return to a very different way of doing things. Teachers will face many additional challenges. We can expect to see a significant increase in traffic on the roads as parents do the school runs, and as more people go back to work. Away from all this, we will begin the process of wardrobe adjustments to reflect the approach of autumn - a cooler yet glorious time of changing colours glistening in the sunshine.

God will be with us in September, whatever opportunities and challenges come our way. Back in May, I preached on 'Facing our Giants, reflecting on what we can learn from the bible story of David and Goliath. "Giants" are whatever confronts us that are bigger than we can cope with in our own strength". "Giants" are still with us, so I make no apology for revisiting that teaching.

Our faith in Jesus Christ embraces his unbreakable promise that God will be with us wherever we go and whatever circumstances we face. This promise was made to Joshua when he faced the seemingly impossible task of leading people out of the wilderness and into the promised land of Canaan.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9).

Whatever "Giant" we face – whether it arises from circumstances beyond our control, or is the result of our own foolishness, or is our response to God asking us to do something that seems impossible - we will never have to face any "Giant" without God by our side.

The story of David & Goliath also teaches us chose the right weapons to face our "Giants". David rejected the heavy armour they tried to put on him – he couldn't even walk with it on. Instead he chose the weapons he was familiar with – staff, stones and sling – weapons he knew worked for him.

Despite the apparent mismatch, David triumphed because he fought in the name of the Lord almighty. Before the short fight he said: *"All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands". (1 Samuel 17: 47)*

Whatever giants we face, we can choose whether to try and deal with them in our own strength or to use all of the resources that God provides us with. God has poured out his Spirit on all who believe in him. *"That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:19-21)*

We face our “Giants” confident that God is with us and the power of spirit is available to us. No “Giant” is bigger than the God who loves us.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
(Ephesians 6:10-20)

As Paul puts *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* (Romans 8:31)

David Harvey

Ruth and Michael Mitchell kindly sent the photograph below, spotted on the wall of a church in Somerset.



Footsteps in Prayer

I have just started using a wonderful resource that I stumbled upon in Facebook, but don't let that put you off, which also has a website. It's by an Anglican vicar, Rhona Knight from Oakham, and it's called Footsteps in Prayer. This is a year-long journey of prayer through the books of the Bible from Genesis through to Revelation. The weekly parts are called "Prayer Stations" and each one is designed to last a week with seven stopping points that take you through different passages from the Bible book for the week. It also has suggestions of music to listen to, videos to watch and things you might like to pray about. The link to the website is <https://revrhona.wixsite.com/website/footsteps-in-prayer>

Each day

- The title slide helps you know you are in the right book.
- The second slide helps you settle with a choice of music links.
- The third slide provides a link to a piece of music chosen for the scripture of the day to begin your time of prayer.
- This third slide then gives you a link to take you to the slide with the reading of the day.
- The reading of the day slide has on it:
 - The reading for the day.
 - Guidance on how you may use the passage in prayer.
 - You can listen to David Suchet reading the whole of the chapter or to the context the passage is taken from by clicking the underlined link in the bible reference in the title.
 - In the final line of the guidance, there is a link to a new page with a further piece of music chosen for the day. You may wish to continue your prayer time with this.
- The final slides include a psalm, a passage from proverbs, a written prayer and an idea for creative prayer.

I really do recommend this as a great way to spend time with God, based on the Bible. It is so beautifully put together and is really encouraging me to dig deeper into prayer and into His word. If you can't commit to doing the whole year, or it seems a bit daunting then why not just try one section? I actually started with Chronicles because that was the book that the Facebook page was showing when I came across it. If you want to follow via the Facebook page it is called Look Up, Look In, Look Out. You don't have to be on Facebook at all, you can do it entirely from the website. I hope it blesses you as much as it is blessing me.

Jenny Lesley



The LORD is near to
all who call on him,
to all who call on him
in truth. He fulfills the
desires of those who
fear him; He hears their
cry and saves them.

Psalm 145:18-19

Books on Prayer: Discuss?

I've just ordered these two books by Pete Greig, the founder of 24/7 Prayer movement. If anyone is interested in reading along and having a Zoom chat, a cross between a book club and a home group really, please let me know and I'll wait for you to join in with me.

How to Pray – this is the description from the Eden website:

- Do you have nagging questions about prayer?
- Pete Greig offers a guide that helps you hit the ground praying
- You'll grow a sure-footed passion for prayer.

No one is born knowing how to pray.

Jesus' disciples, people who followed his every step and word, still had to ask for help. Imagine that. They asked *the son of God* how to pray. Asking how to pray can be intimidating. In fact, asking for help in any circumstance is scary.

And who would you ask, anyway?

Written for normal people, *How to Pray* is a simple guide to prayer that fills in the blanks you have.

Assuming no prior knowledge, this new book is Prayer 101. *How to Pray* guides you through prayer with confidence and clarity. No jargon, no nonsense, no difficulty.

Just a simple guide to prayer in normal, everyday language

And here's the blurb from the **Unanswered Prayer – God on Mute** from the Eden website:

- Feel like God doesn't answer prayer?
- You aren't alone. Pete Greig tells his story of prayer and perseverance
- You'll find hope and a renewed fervour to pray at all times, in all places

God on Mute was written out of Pete's own experience of the miraculous power of prayer alongside the pain of unanswered prayer and the common human struggle to find faith with that paradox.

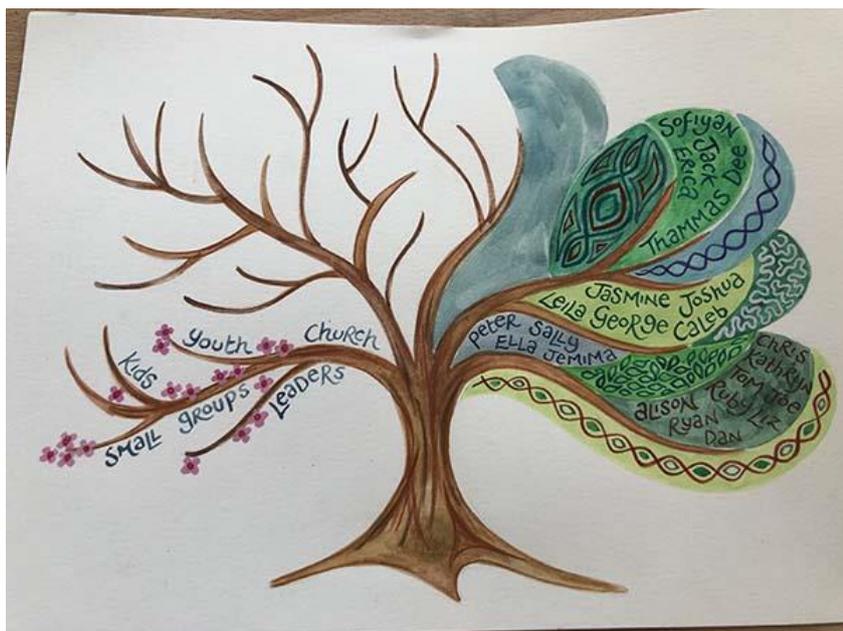
Just after the birth of the 24-7 Prayer Movement and of his second child, Pete's wife Samie was diagnosed with a massive brain tumour. Subsequent surgery to remove the cancer was successful but she continues to suffer terrible epilepsy and his deepest prayers for her healing did not work. Tracking Christ's own unanswered prayer through Gethsemane and Golgotha, the book leads the reader to Easter Sunday where miracles arise often when we least expect it.

Jenny Lesley

Creating A Prayer Tree

This is taken, with permission from the Christian artist Hannah Dunnett's blog. The overall idea is to create the shape of a tree, including within it the names of the people or communities you are wanting to pray for. It then serves as a visual reminder when you are praying of people and things to pray for.

You can do a painted version and there is a downloadable template on Hannah Dunnett's webpage. <https://www.benandhannahdunnett.com/week-one-creating-a-prayer-tree/>

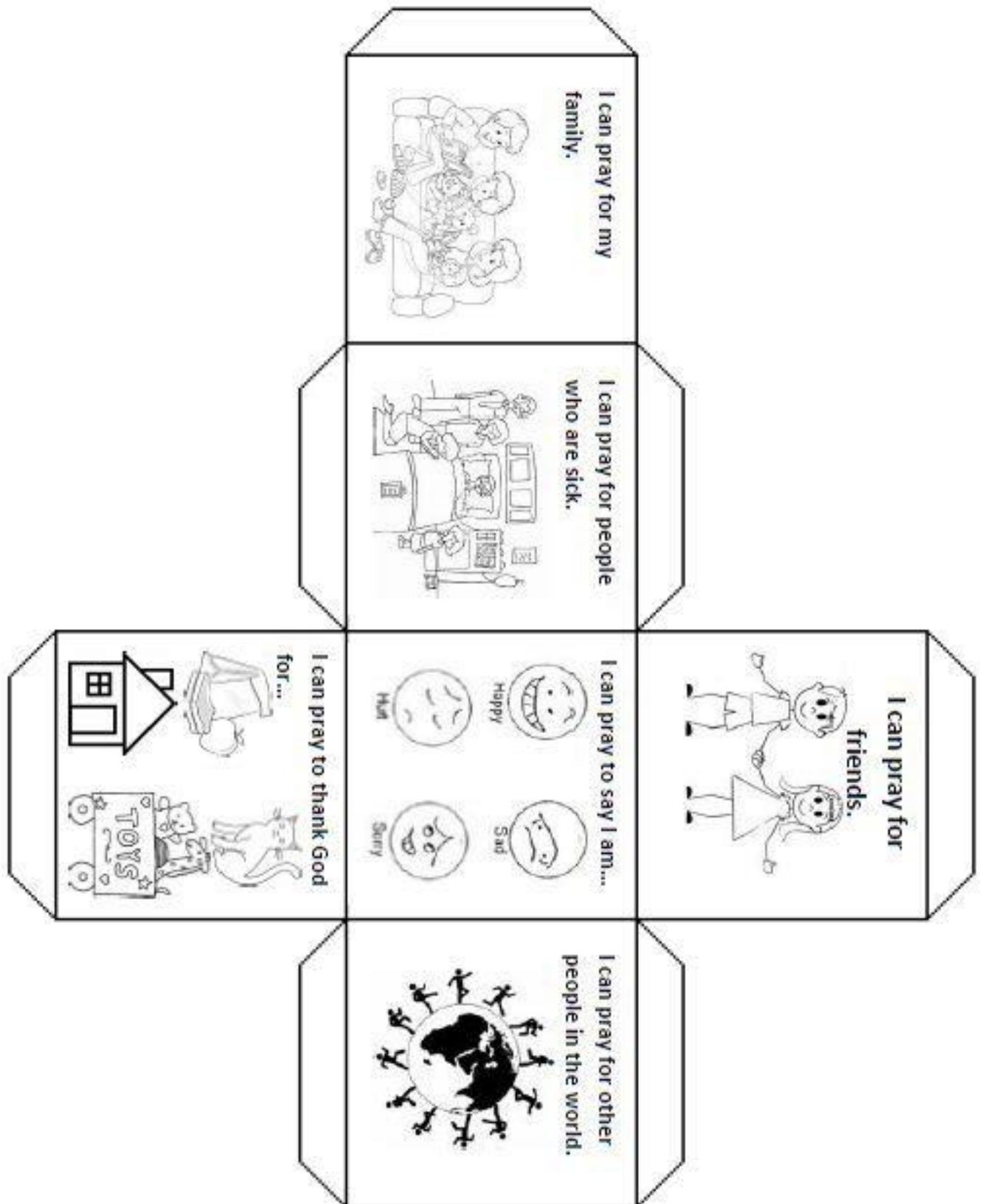


Or if, like me, you wonder if your artistic skills are up to the painted version then how about a collage version?



Making a Prayer Cube

Whilst this idea is aimed at children, do feel free to make and use it if it might help you, whatever your age.



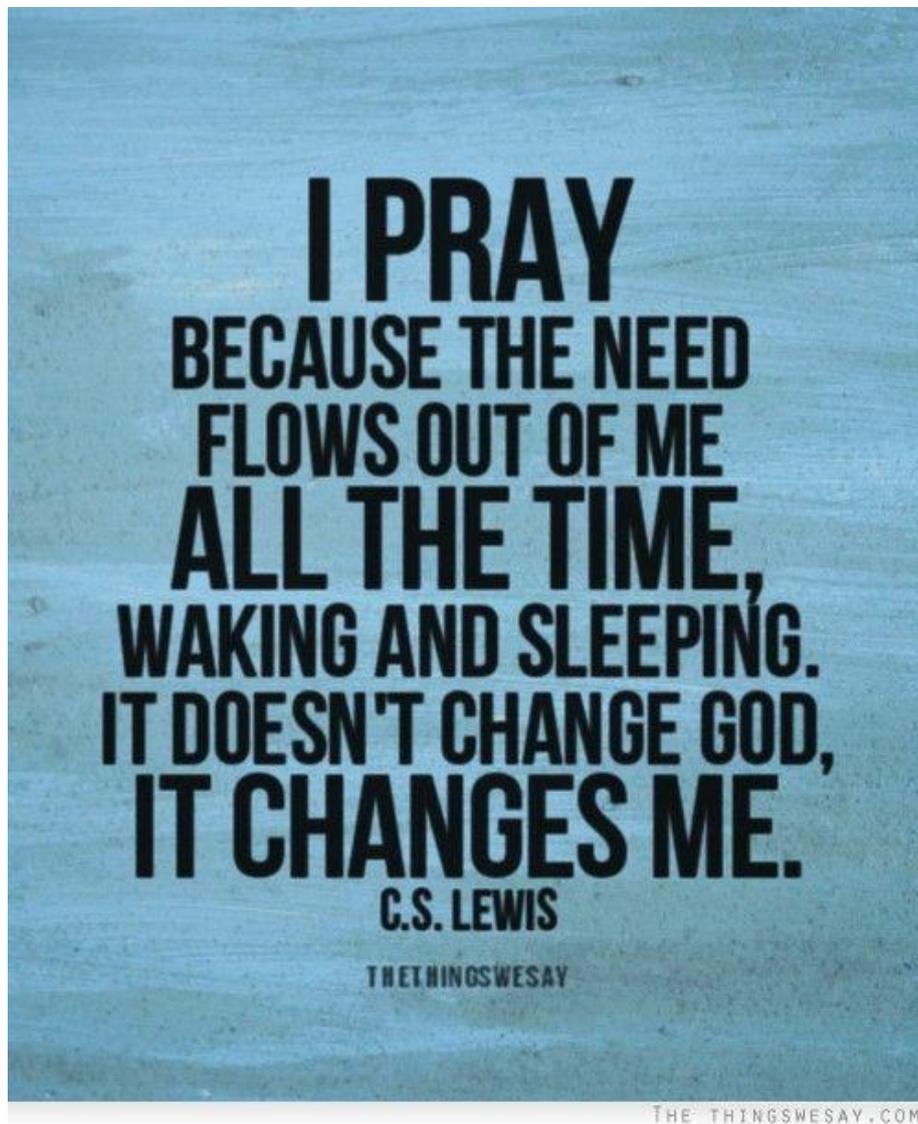
Daily Zoom Prayer Meeting

As schools go back and more people are going back to a different rhythm, the times at which we meet in the mornings to pray on Zoom will be changing. From Monday 31st August we will be meeting at new times:

- on weekdays at 7.30am
- and on weekends and bank holidays at 9am.

The prayer meetings will also use a new Zoom Meeting ID: **899 0084 1018** - the password remains the same: 1893. This applies only to prayer meetings. Other meetings including the Sunday morning services will still use 343 162 2013.

Please do make the time to join in. If you can't make either of these times but would still value a regular time to pray then please do contact the leadership team, it may be possible to arrange prayer triplets for another regular prayer time.



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 7.30am every morning and weekly on Tuesdays at 7pm – using the new Zoom details:

Meeting ID: 899 0084 1018

Password: 1893

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 : 30th August – 5th September 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) – [Meeting ID 343 162 2013]
- 10:30 Morning Worship (online)

Monday

- 09:00 Prayers (online) Bank Holiday – [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018]

Tuesday

- 07:30 Prayers (online) – [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018]

Wednesday

- 07:30 Prayers (online) – [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018]
- 11.30 Drop In (online) – [Meeting ID 343 162 2013]
- 19:15 House Group (online) – [Meeting ID 343 162 2013]

Thursday

- 07:30 Prayers (online) – [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018]
- 20:00 House Group (online) – [Meeting ID 343 162 2013]

Friday

- 07:30 Prayers (online) – [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018]

Saturday

- 09:00 Prayers (online) – [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018]