



Issue 35 – 21st November 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 For example personal detail or political content will not be published.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!



No one can snatch us away!

Back in March, the various plans Jean and I had to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary with the family were “snatched away” by the arrival of restrictions and then lockdown because of COVID-19. As a family, we agreed that we would get together later in the year, combining those celebrations with those for my 75th birthday. This has again been “snatched away”. And after years of looking forward to it, my free TV licence has also been “snatched away”! And this month they took away my opportunity to lose golf balls trying to skim them across ponds!

At a serious level, COVID-19 has taken away so many lives and livelihoods and has disproportionately affecting those with underlying health problems and living in communities with high levels of deprivation. Millions of people across the world are enduring heart-breaking conditions almost beyond our comprehension.

Governments seeking to balance health, economics and personal liberty issues are in “no win” territory. In order to protect others, we are asked to follow advice and laws that take away our personal freedom to go places, meet people, earn money, get medical care, and pursue our interests and hobbies, and to physically gather for worship and fellowship. As individuals, we take a different view on whether the balance is right depending on our circumstances and viewpoints. For some, it brings disappointments and inconvenience, for others it can be having a devastating impact on quality and duration of life.

In challenging times, it is great to know that Jesus described himself as *“the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep”* (John 10:11). He also says this: *“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”* (John 10:17-18).

As we read the narrative of the journey Jesus made to the cross, during which he experienced disappointments, misunderstandings, betrayal, false accusations, and horrific suffering, we need to understand that his opponents did not take his life from him. Jesus took that road from choice in obedience to God. Jesus *“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”* (Philippians 2:6-8)

Questioned by the Jews to say whether he was the Christ, Jesus says *“I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”* (John 10:22-30).

At a time when so many things are being taken away from us, it is great to know that **no one can snatch believers out of the hand of Jesus or the hand of God**. Jesus has demonstrated that he has the authority to promise and deliver on that.

As Paul writes “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”. (Romans 8:37-39).

David Harvey



**No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

In Christ Alone, Getty & Townend published under CCLI Licence

It's beginning to look a lot like.... NOVEMBER!

I have a bit of a judgy thing going on about people who put their Christmas decorations up before Advent. To me, the secret of good celebration, like comedy, is in the timing. Go too early and you are surely sick of mince pies by mid December and the tree is bald by the Big Day. Leave it too late and there's no joyous anticipation, just a bit of an afterthought. This year, half of Britain seems to have anticipated the starting gun and are racing down Tinsel Alley with enough lights to put the grot back into Santa's Grotto.

There's usually a clear gender division in our house on when decorations should go up. Carys and I used to be first Sunday in Adventists. Although given her natural Elf tendencies Carys was always ready for a mid-November start. Raymond and the boys on the other hand are mainly indifferent to any kind of decoration and will have to be dragged kicking and screaming into the attic to fetch down the baubles and I'll be lucky this year if there's anything twinkling before Christmas Eve. Now that our girls are both living together in Denby, I'm sorely missing my festive ally who is probably already using up half the national grid's supply of electricity on flashing lights.

It's been a very grey November and, missing seeing the people we love, missing the normal hustle and bustle of life, it's easy to understand why people are seeking comfort and reassurance by getting their trees and lights out already. It strikes me though, looking at other people's pictures on Facebook and driving by their bright houses, that perhaps some of it is a yearning for comfort that is almost, but not quite, in the right place.

I came across a piece of writing that I did a few years ago where I was bemoaning the loss of quiet time during Advent, how I longed for time to just focus on Jesus, on what His coming into the world meant and what it means for us as Christians that He will come again. This year I'm thinking I should have been more careful about what I wished for! However, I have been consciously looking at resources for Advent this year and making plans to do more than open a door on some commercial calendar and sing carols. It is somewhat hackneyed to be urging people to put the Christ back into Christmas but this year, more than ever it is what the world needs. We need a Saviour even more than a vaccine.

This coming Sunday, the 22nd November is known as Stir Up Sunday in the Anglican church. Taken from the collect of the day from the Book of Common Prayer which begins "Stir up, we beseech thee O Lord the wills of thy faithful people." Whatever the denomination, it's a great thing to be praying for as we approach Advent isn't it? For a stirring up of the faithful and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit across the world. There are so many people still living in a darkness that no fairy lights are ever going to extinguish. Let's be ready and willing to share the really great news about Christmas. News that no pronouncements from government can beat. News proclaimed first by Isaiah and again by the angels in Bethlehem.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

Jenny Lesley

Psavory Psalms

CROSSWORD #9 PSALM 125

Learn one of the best-loved Psalms by answering questions about it in the crossword puzzle below.
Read the Psalm first!

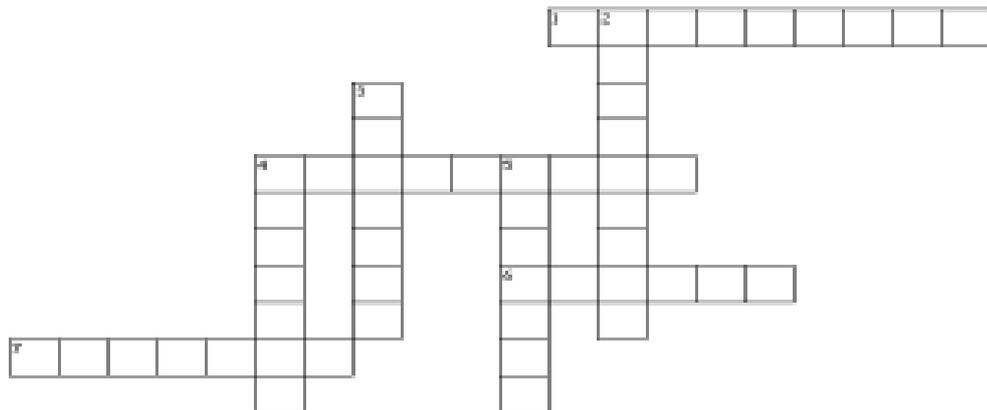
Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

3 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!

5 But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!



Across:

1. Mountains surround this holy city.
4. The Lord does this to protect his people.
6. Peace be upon...
7. Evildoers turn aside with these ways.

Down:

2. The Lord will lead away with these bad types of people.
3. Mount Zion abides until when?
4. This thing represents wickedness.
5. Good people are this way in their hearts.

Restore O Lord

Restore, O Lord,
The honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord,
In all the earth Your fame,
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
Whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
Where we are hard and cold,
In Your refiner's fire
Come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes
And evil crouches near,
Still our living God
Is reigning, He is reigning here.

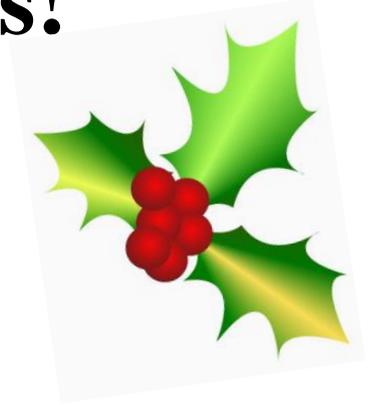
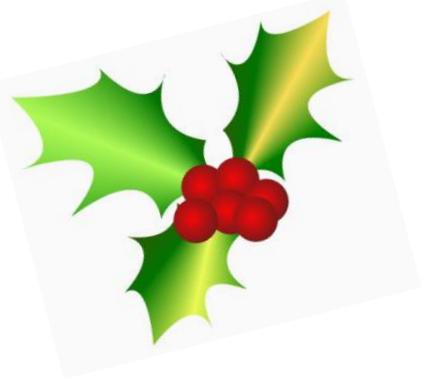
Restore, O Lord,
The honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Graham Kendrick & Chris Rolinson
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HOPE for Belper

Christmas Hampers!



This year we are providing 90 Christmas Gift Bags for individuals and families who would otherwise find it hard to celebrate in the traditional way, due to their financial circumstances.

The generosity and love you have shown over the last 8 years has been an enormous blessing to your neighbours in the Belper area, and we are asking you to dig deep again this year.

This year we're asking for food donations from our list of items to go in the hampers

Please buy only the items from the list provided so we can make the hampers look similar. Please donate items by the 6th of December so we can ensure they are at the store for packing and distribution early December. Each hamper will also have a meat voucher for a local butcher worth £15, if you are unable to buy items from the list then please donate towards these vouchers at our just giving page: <http://justgiving.com/campaign/hopechristmashampers> and remember if you are a UK tax payer you can fill tick the gift aid box form, therefore increasing every £1 by 25p.

The Food and Community Hub Team!





CHRISTMAS HAMPER SHOPPING LIST

Please buy any of the following items for the Christmas hampers

 Shloer

Christmas Pudding

 Tub of Chocolates
(Roughly 650g depending on brand)

 Box of cheese biscuits

 Box of Christmas biscuits

 Pringles



Thank you for your continued support



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 weekday morning and 9am on weekends and bank holidays – using the new Zoom details:

Meeting ID: 899 0084 1018

Password: 1893

The Big Quiz Night – Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who joined in with The Big Quiz on Zoom last Saturday. A good time seemed to be had by all and we raised £285 for Tearfund to use in their various projects in developing countries. Overall, 17639 people across 486 churches took part across the UK raising a massive £204,586.

Food and Community Hub:

Please see the Christmas appeal earlier in Inspire.

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 of fruit, potatoes, carrots and meat meals
- Toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner
- Biscuits
- Sugar
- Toilet roll (packs of 2 or 4 please)
- Puddings, all kinds.

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.

Diary : 21st November – 27th November 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

- 09:00 Prayers (online) – [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018]
- 10:30 Morning Worship (online) – [Meeting ID 343 162 2013]

Monday

- 07:30 Prayers (online) – [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]
- 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]