



Issue 40 – 9th January 2021

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 For example personal detail or political content will not be published.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



Themes from Ephesians – Marked with the Spirit’s Seal.

Greetings to you all at the start of another New Year.

1 January 2021 was a significant date in the history of Belper Baptist Church. It was the completion date of the process of the church becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission. The process has taken a year to complete and involved quite complex and time-consuming negotiations and decision-making challenges. The changes mainly affect how the Charity Trustees operate. The main difference most of you will become aware of in due course is how Church Members make appointments to the church leadership team.

We are familiar with the idea that at times we have to “sign on the dotted line” to complete a legal process. In November, with authority from the Charity Trustees, Jo and I signed various documents. The Baptist Union Pension Trustees then added their signatures enabling our legal advisers to complete the process. Whether it relates to international trade deals or peace accords, a contract of employment, taking out a mortgage, moving to a new house, entering into energy contracts, or making any purchase, the deal is only complete when it is authorised, signed off, or in some cases “legally sealed”.

As we speculate about what 2021 might bring, we can reflect on Paul’s letters to the churches to give us much needed encouragement and a sense of optimism and direction. In the first chapter of his letter to the Ephesians he writes of our “Spiritual Blessings in Christ”

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfilment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. [Ephesians 1:3-10]

Apostle Paul leaves us in no doubt that we owe our salvation, our forgiveness, eternal life now and in eternity to the grace and mercy of God. Our Sunday worship last week included a wonderful expression of praise in the song “Here in the grace of God I stand”. The song speaks of God’s grace giving us a lightness in our spirit.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory. [Ephesians 1:11-14]

It is an incredible thought and encouragement to know that as we have heard and believed in the gospel of salvation that that our new covenant relationship with God through Jesus is

marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit. It speaks of a finished transaction. There is no higher authority who can overrule the promises Jesus makes. Unlike worldly guarantees that have so many exemptions and conditions that they are not worth the paper they are written on, being sealed by the Holy Spirit gives us a cast iron guarantee that we belong to God now and in eternity. Surely this is grounds for optimism whatever 2021 brings.

Our church motto theme for 2021 is Romans 12:2 *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will”*.

A seal or signature on a document is often used to give it a mark of authenticity, to attest that it is genuine. We usually have to get our signatures witnessed by someone independent of the transaction. The authenticity of our belief and professions of faith, will be revealed in the love and forgiveness we show to others, our service to Christ in the church, our good works to our neighbours and community, but most of all by the witness and transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ”. [Romans 8:9]

Derek reminded us on Sunday that it is the Holy Spirit who does the work of transforming us. We need to invite and allow the Spirit to do his work in us. May that thought be an inspiration for us all during 2021 and beyond.

David Harvey



Is it Finished?

How we are all longing for this season of Covid to be over. I am reconciling myself to more restriction by trying to change how I frame the whole lockdown experience in the words I use. Words carry so much meaning for us and lockdown is such a horrible word isn't it? It speaks of imprisonment, confinement, isolation. An article I read recently suggested that we call it something more positive like cocooning which speaks to us more of nurturing ourselves, of a withdrawal that happens before a re-emergence into the world.

The other words that have been on my mind this week were Jesus' last words on the cross. *"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."* John 19:30

I was aware that the Greek word that John uses was Tetelestai. Which has meanings including I end, I accomplish, I pay in full, as in a debt. As a former debtor, in oh so many meanings of the word, I've always been struck by the power of this word. Yet it occurred to me only recently that this is John's translation. So I went looking for the Hebrew and discovered that *"Tam ve'nishlam - "It is finished"*, are the first two words of the Hebrew phrase, *"Tam ve'nishlam Shevach La'el Boreh Olam"*, which means, "It is completed and fulfilled, blessed be God, the Creator of the world." The acronym for this phrase is written at the end of sacred Jewish writings such as books of the Bible. Thus Jesus declared that he had completed and fulfilled everything God had purposed since the creation of the world.

Both the Hebrew and the Greek words speak of the completeness and finality of God's work in Jesus. We can't improve on it. It is job done.

After Derek spoke last Sunday about our bible verse for the year I was inspired to go and look up the original Greek words for being 'transformed by the renewing of your mind'. The word for transformed is metamorphousthe which is where we get the word metamorphosis. It's the same word that would be used for a butterfly emerging from a cocoon. What really spoke to me was the emphasis on this not being our work but that of the Holy Spirit. How often do we get this wrong? I know that I, and others, had great visions of re-emerging from our last episode of cocooning aka lockdown, as this marvellous, new, re-invention of myself. It was completely unrealistic, certainly unachievable under my own steam yet it's absolutely how the world encourages you to think and act. However, once you commit yourself to letting the Holy Spirit change you a whole new set of possibilities open. How liberating is it to take yourself off the treadmill of transformation by hard work and simply give in to God's plan for your life? Be transformed, not transform yourself. What a world of difference.

We are saved once and for all by Jesus' redeeming work on the cross. We cannot be more saved and we are never saved by our own actions but, as Paul reminds us, by grace through the gift of faith. The salvation is done but the transformation continues. God can and will use this time to nurture, grow and change us, our part is to let go and grow. Not locked down but cocooned in His loving hands.

Jenny Lesley

BMS Birthday Scheme



Thank you to those, who have given to the BMS birthday scheme during 2020. I have been able to send a cheque for £285, to B.M.S World Mission, there will also be money collected through gift aid. This money goes towards the medical work and health ministries around the world.

Over the last 2 years, the number of members has diminished, and so I am asking, if there are those, who would like to join this worthy cause, children included. As we receive gifts on our birthday, we give a gift to BMS.

If anyone would like more information, please do get in touch with me.

Ruth Mitchell

THE GATE OF THE YEAR

'And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)

Bible Crossword X

Across

- 1 Donkey (3)
- 2 Jesus' Father (3)
- 4 One of the twelve (9)

Down

- 1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)
- 3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)

4		5		6			7		8			9		10		11
12							13				14					15
16						17					18					19
20											21					

- 8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)
- 12 One of David's warriors (5)
- 13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)
- 14 New Testament name for Noah (3)
- 15 Wish harm upon (5)
- 16 Hole in the ground (3)
- 17 Adversary (5)
- 18 Savour (5)
- 19 First woman (3)
- 20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)
- 21 Family of priests (9)
- 22 Third son of Jacob (4)
- 23 Hates (8)
- 26 Assurances (8)
- 30 Endured pain (8)
- 31 Return from the dead (4)
- 32 Intercessor (8)
- 35 Decorating (8)
- 39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)
- 40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)
- 42 A wise insect (3)
- 44 Dwelling place of kings (6)
- 45 Make bigger (8)

- 4 Tread down (7)
- 5 Father of Jonah (7)
- 6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)
- 7 Defensive structures (11)
- 8 Refuges (11)
- 9 Dirty (7)
- 10 Devout (7)
- 11 Pieces of money (7)
- 24 Used to listen (3)
- 25 Used to see (3)
- 26 Positions (5)
- 27 Made available (7)
- 28 Snake (7)
- 29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)
- 33 Finish (3)
- 34 Possess (3)
- 35 King of the Amalekites (4)
- 36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)
- 38 Present (4)
- 41 Unfasten (4)
- 43 Fish traps (4)



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

PAUL'S JOURNEYS

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

CORINTH
TORAH TEACHER
PAUL
ANTIOCH
ROME
SYNAGOGUE

LYSTRA
EPHESUS
BARNABAS
GALATIA
PRISON
ISRAELITE

SHIPWRECKED
DAMASCUS
TARSUS
DISCIPLES
YESHUA
MALTA



For more free Bible resources and Teacher Packs including coloring pages,
worksheets, quizzes and more visit our website at:
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 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:

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 : 10th – 16th January

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 10th

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 09:00 | Prayers (online) | - [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018] |
| 10:30 | All Age Service (online) | - [Meeting ID 343 162 2013] |

Monday 11th

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 07:30 | Prayers (online) | - [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018] |
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Tuesday 12th

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 07:30 | Prayers (online) | - [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018] |
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Wednesday 13th

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 07:30 | Prayers (online) | - [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018] |
| 19:30 | Church Meeting | - [Meeting ID 343 162 2013] |

Thursday 14th

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 07:30 | Prayers (online) | - [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018] |
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Friday 15th

- | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------------------------|
| 09:00 | Prayers (online) | - [Meeting ID 899 0084 1018] |
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Saturday 16th

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