



Inspire

JULY/AUGUST 2026

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and , “Love your neighbour as yourself.”
(Luke 10:27, NIVUK)



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New Me / New You ...

Do not conform 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. (Romans 12:2, NIV)

Dear friends,

If you have ever used a pressure washer to clean a path or a patio, you will have seen how quite dark-looking concrete, bricks or stones can become much more colourful and bright simply because of the many years' accumulation of dirt and grime being removed.

Although the transformation may take a bit of time, the results of pressure washing can really amaze us if we have forgotten just how different things looked before the dirt and grime was there.



With the huge range of techniques and treatments now available, there are all sorts of ways in which people's appearance can also be transformed. Each and every day, people will be changing the cut or colour of their hair, getting tattoos and piercings, or undergoing various forms of cosmetic surgery. Along with weight change programmes, levels of physical activity, dietary preferences, accidents and illnesses the natural human ageing process can also transform our bodies over time. Such outward changes may make us feel a bit differently about ourselves but, just as a new coat of paint on a car won't change how well the car drives, we will essentially still be the same people on the inside when changes have been made are to our outer appearance, rather than to our inner selves.

The great thing about getting to know Jesus is that he can bring about big changes to our inner selves. Of course, some of us may find the idea of changes to who we are and how we are quite a challenge – especially because, as with Saul on the road to Damascus, the changes that Jesus brings about can have a really big impact on us. Even so, if we open up ourselves to the work of God the Holy Spirit in our lives when we come to faith, we will find that God will help us to change for the better as we open ourselves up to the work of God the Holy Spirit in us.

In writing to the Christians in Rome, Paul encouraged them to be open to the helpful ways in which God could change them. This was the same person called Saul who met with Jesus on the Damascus road and was changed from a persecutor of Christians to a passionate evangelist and he wrote:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform 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. (Romans 12:1-2, NIV)

Are there things about your inner self that you would like God to help you to change? If so, why not make this a focus of your thoughts and your prayers this month? And as we open ourselves up to becoming the new me and the new you, may the changes happening within us help us to be transformed to become more like Jesus day by day.

God bless,

Rev. Robert.

Praying Together

Daily Prayers

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been offering church prayer times at 7.30am every weekday morning and at 9am on weekends and bank holidays. After the Covid restrictions were lifted, people's daily routines changed and the number of people joining in with these prayer times on Zoom became fewer, but the Zoom room still opens every morning for people to join on their own, or to pray with any other people who may also join, so you'll find details about how to join these prayer times on Zoom on the last page of this issue.

Monday Evening Prayers

Our Monday Evening Prayer meetings are at 7.15pm, meeting upstairs at church in the area normally used by our young people on Sundays. Our free-flowing prayer times last for about an hour and everyone is welcome to lead and to contribute in a variety of ways as they feel led. It's OK to come a bit later, or to leave a bit earlier, if need be. Ask Robert about the joining the WhatsApp group, if you wish to, as this helps us to make sure that we will have a keyholder present and that people know about any changes to the usual meeting plans.

Prayer Chain

Our church prayer chain enables prayer requests to go out for people we know who would like us to pray for them. **As prayer requests may relate to confidential or sensitive personal information please make sure, before you ask for a prayer chain request to go out, that the people you are asking us to pray for have agreed that their names and personal information may be shared on our prayer chain.** Alongside the prayer chain posts on a WhatsApp group, prayer requests are also passed on to a few people by Email/Phone. As far as possible, we also share updates about what has happened to the people we have been praying for. Sometimes, we also share information or resources about prayer initiatives that we can join in with. If you are not already on the church prayer chain, do ask Robert about joining it.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

The night of 22nd to 23rd August 1791 in Saint Domingue, today the Republic of Haiti, saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

It is against this background that the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on 23rd August each year. It was first celebrated in a number of countries, in particular in Haiti (23 August 1998) and Gorée Island in Senegal (23 August 1999). This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. In accordance with the goals of the intercultural project “The Routes of Enslaved Peoples”, it should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

We are encouraged to mark this day by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and we are also encouraged by the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) partnership between the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church to remember that, although slavery and the slave trade have been made illegal across the world, millions of people are still being exploited as slaves today, with slavery having taken on new forms for the modern day and often remaining hidden due to its illegal nature. Some of the forms of exploitation included in modern slavery are:

- Forced Labour – Work or services that people are forced to do against their will, while under the threat of some form of punishment.
- Bonded Labour – Sometimes called “Debt Bondage” – the most common form of modern slavery. It happens when people borrow money, are unable to repay. Consequently, they are forced to work to pay off their debt, without getting any (or very little) payment of their own. This ties people into their slavery because they no longer have control over their income, or ability to know when the debt will be repaid.
- Domestic Servitude – Home based bondage. This is where people are forced to work as domestic servants (such as maids, cooks and/or nannies), and are unable to leave. Due to this form of slavery happening inside the home, it is often difficult to find and trace.
- Human Trafficking – The transportation and harbouring of people with the aim of exploiting them. People can be forced into being trafficked through abduction, violence, threats towards the individual or their family, and/or coercion by the trafficker through the promise of a better life.
- Forced and Early Marriage – Being forced into a marriage against someone’s will.
- Descent-Based Slavery – Considering someone to be a slave because they were born to slave parents. This is slavery from birth.
- Child Slavery – This is separate from child labour. Child labour is the using of children for labour in exchange for a tiny, and often not legal, wage. Child slavery is when a child is exploited for someone else’s gain, through the form of child soldiers, child marriage, domestic slavery and/or trafficking.

If you would like to get involved with ending modern slavery and exploitation, see <https://jpit.uk/modern-slavery>.



Belper Men's First Saturday Breakfast

Venue: The Bookcafe, Belper

(Adjacent to Morrisons Petrol Station)

All men welcome. Bring a friend.

**Next Meetings: 6th June, 4th
July, 8th August, 5th September**

Friendly. Good food. Making connections.

**A laid-back breakfast for men connected with the Belper Churches
No talks. No agenda. Just good company and a proper breakfast.**

TO BOOK: You'll need to book your place and pre-order by the Wednesday before the Saturday meeting. The brunch menu: www.thebookcafe.co.uk/our-food-drink-menus You can pre-pay Vaughn or on the day

To reserve your place, email (by the Wednesday before): vaughna@btinternet.com



Shine Your Light

Recently, I was at an event, where to my surprise, they asked me to introduce a hymn, which was, "Onward Christian Soldiers." This hymn, came from the period of the Salvation Army, who in the latter 1860's were preaching in the open air in East London, being pelted with rotten fruit, but persevering until they had built a church of 1000 souls. The Salvation Army were founded a couple of generations after the Methodist revival of the 18th Century. Every few generations, a new thrust out into the nation is needed. That is never more true than at the present, when church attendance is down to about 5% of the population, and for the first time, those identifying as Christians is below 50%.

There are probably two reasons why a great thrust out into the non-churched population are needed at present. One for the good of the nation and the other for the good of the individuals who need to hear the message. Let's look at the nation first: We used to be called the "Nation of the Book" and we used to send missionaries all over the world. Now the rest of the world are sending missionaries to us. The principles of the Bible are a blueprint for successful living both nationally and individually. When we depart from these as a Nation, it seems that there are consequences. It is amazing how many thrusts of prayer there are throughout the rest of the world for Britain at this moment.

Now let us look at the individuals: Regarding the unbeliever or the one who 'falls short', as I pointed out last time, Jesus uses this quaint expression, "Where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." It seems to imply being able to see what one could have had and to know that one could never have it. That is the lot of the one who misses out on the wonderful gift that Jesus offers. Generally, in 'witnessing', I tend to take a positive line and major on the fantastic change that becoming a follower of Jesus brings into our lives, but it is good to sometimes be motivated by what happens when people have not come to Him. We need both as a motivation: Life in Christ is brilliant, but life without him is eternal separation from that that we were created to have. I'm not sure that Jesus wanted us to use that phrase as a threat, but it becomes a motivation for us to reach out to those we love, once we understand it.

This is why it is good to hear of some powerful thrusts of outreach going on Nationally. "Shine Your Light" is one but there are others. The outreaches that we have been doing on King Street as Churches Together have been under this general umbrella. The next one generally in that series will be at the end of September, as "Shine at Harvest." This type of thing may not feel like our calling, but If that is not our thing, then let's do what is! One feels that this is the message of the hour: We have to draw our boat out into deeper water, drop our nets over the side of the boat as Jesus directs, and bring in the harvest of souls. We can do it you know! I am not by first calling an evangelist myself, but I do what Jesus equips me and asks me to do.

We need to get that turn around in the nation again, and it comes as we all do our bit. That's the turn-around that the Wesley's and William Booth saw in their generations. It will be different for us of course, but with the same intent. To bring souls to Jesus and to see a turn around in the Nation.

Greg Hall

Dear church,

We are bowled over with the love and care you have surrounded us with during Andrew's brain tumour journey.

You have met our tears with kindness and acceptance.

You have heard our fears, not shied away, and prayed with us for transformation.

Our children have been understood and cherished.

There is so much that we are thankful for – the kind words, being held up in prayer through it all, the lifts to and from hospital, so many delicious meals which have made our days much easier....and the list goes on...

We didn't do it alone – we did it with you alongside us.

Psalm 121 v 1-3 says

"I lift my eyes to the mountains –

Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,

The maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip –

He who watches over you will not slumber"

Many times, the brain tumour and brain surgery felt like the steepest of mountains. It was too much, too scary, too overwhelming. God has never left us in it all. We have seen His Hand at work in the incredible recovery that Andrew is making – beyond the expectations we were initially given from the surgeons. He has started running again! – thank you Jesus. Our family and friends who are not part of Belper Baptist church have heard of the wonderful love, care and support which you showed and continue to show to our family.

Pray with us for Andrew's continued recovery, including for his balance, and the monitoring scans to be clear.

We are very thankful to be at church with you,

God bless,

Love L-J, Andrew, Bailey, Aya, Grace & Gus x

BUGB Excellence in Safeguarding Training

Saturday 10th October 2026

We have arranged Level 2 and 3 safeguarding training to take place at Belper Baptist Church on the above date. This training needs to be renewed every 4 years and we last hosted the course in October 2022. As we are hosting the event we will also be welcoming participants from other churches for the day.

If this training is something you should undertake, then you will receive an email from Robert in the next few weeks with a private link to allow you to book onto the training.

Please see the guidance below as to whether you should have Level 2 or both Level 2 and 3 training. If you are unsure, please get in touch.

Level 2 training should be undertaken by ALL who work with children, young people or adults at risk in a Baptist church including ministers, leaders, trustees/deacons, Designated Person for Safeguarding (DPS) and Safeguarding Trustee.

Level 3 training should be undertaken by all those with LEADERSHIP responsibilities; ministers, leaders, deacons, DPS and Safeguarding Trustee, together with the main leaders of all children's groups.

Ministers and leaders/deacons/trustees/main leaders of church run groups need to complete both Level 2 and Level 3 training.

Please note that Level 2 training must be completed before attending a Level 3 training.

Arrival and coffee from 9am with a formal start for Level 2 training at 9:30am. Level 3 training will be in the afternoon, starting after the lunch break.

Cost: £20 per person to include refreshments. Church will cover this cost for delegates.

Deadline for booking: Wednesday 30th September 2026

With thanks for all you do to safeguard those who are part of our church.

Liz Foster

Designated Person for Safeguarding.



A vibrant scene of a picnic on a lush green lawn. A large, thick-trunked palm tree stands prominently in the background, casting a shadow over the area. In the foreground, a red and white checkered picnic blanket is spread out on the grass. On the blanket, there is a wicker picnic basket, a green cooler, and various food items including bread, fruit, and drinks. The overall atmosphere is relaxed and enjoyable.



Belper River Gardens at 1pm

Bring your own picnic
Musical entertainment on the bandstand
during the afternoon



SUMMER WALK & TEA



Saturday 22nd August
Meet together outside
church at 2pm for a walk
down Wyver Lane and back,
followed by refreshments
(join us at 3:30pm if you
are just coming for
refreshments)



All welcome



HOPE for Belper NEWS

There are currently three main projects run by Hope for Belper:
The Food and Community Hub, The Plot, and Next Steps



Thank your your ongoing
support, prayers and donations
for the Hub.

A few items we are currently short of
are:

- Coffee
- Shampoo
- Tea bags
- Pot noodles/super noodles
- Sponge Puddings
- Sugar
- Toilet rolls
- Tinned meat stew or curry

Hope for belper recently had a stall at
Belper Goes Green. We will also be at
'Love Belper' on 26th July and 'A Field
Day' on on 11th August this summer

The Food and Community Hub
is open on Tuesdays and
Fridays, from 12 - 2pm
at Belper Baptist Church.
All welcome!

A meal is provided every Tuesday
and Friday, and support is
available from Citizens Advice
(CAB)



Creative sessions also take place
one Tuesdays each month thanks
to Fleet Arts (see below for recent
creations!)





Food grown at The Plot is given away at the Food & Community Hub, and used in some of the meals!



The Plot gardening project found a new gardening space in the autumn to continue their fantastic work, growing food for the Food and Community Hub

Currently meeting on Thursday mornings



Next Steps is a coaching project which supports people attending the Food & Community Hub by linking them with a volunteer coach who supports them in setting and working towards their own goals.

If you would like further details of these projects,
please contact:
secretary@hopeforbelper.com
and your email will be passed on to the relevant people



Wednesday 1st	9.30am	Bible Study	
Saturday 4th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast- Book Cafe	
Sunday 5th	10:30am	Morning Service Jesus' Teaching (5) Washing Feet	Lead: Jenny Lesley Preach: Greg Hall
Monday 6th	7.15pm	John 13:1-17 Prayer Meeting	
Wednesday 8th	9.30am	Bible Study	
Sunday 12 th	10:30am	Morning Service Jesus' Teaching (6) The Holy Spirit John 14:15-31	Lead & Preach: Robert Foster
Monday 13th	7.15pm	Prayer Meeting	
Wednesday 15th	9.30am	Bible Study	
Sunday 19th	10:30am	Communion Service Jesus Is....(1) The Bread of Life John 6:25-40	Lead: Jean Harvey Preach: David Harvey
	1.00pm	Picnic at the River Gardens	
Monday 20th	7:15pm	Prayer Meeting	
Wednesday 22nd	9:30am	Bible Study	
	7.30pm	Member's Meeting	
Sunday 26th	10:30am	Morning Service Jesus Is (2) Light of the World John 8:12-20	Lead: Su Churm Preach: Robert Foster

Monday 27th	7:15pm	Prayer Meeting	
Wednesday 29th	9.30am	Bible Study	
Sunday 2nd August	10.30am	Morning Service	Leading: Jonny White
		Jesus Is...(3) The Gate	Preaching: Greg Hall
		John 10:1-19	
Monday 3rd	7.15pm	Prayer Meeting	
Saturday 8th	8.30am	Men's Breakfast – Book Cafe	
Sunday 9th	10.30am	Morning Service	Leading: Raymond Lesley
		Jesus Is...(4) The Good Shepherd	Preaching: Jenny Lesley
		John 10:11-21	
Monday 10th	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting	
Sunday 16th	10.30am	Communion Service	Leading & Preaching: Robert Foster
		Jesus Is...(5) The Resurrection and the Life	
		John 11:17-27	
Monday 17th	2.00pm	Women's Wellbeing Social/Tea	
	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting	
Saturday 22nd	2.00pm 3.30pm	Walk followed by....Tea	
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	All Age Service	Leading & Preaching:
		Jesus Is... (6) The Way, Truth and Life	Tom & Elle Wyke & Team
		John 15:1-17	
Monday 24th	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting	
Sunday 30th	10.30am	Morning Service	Leading: Vaughn Armstrong
		Jesus Is... (7) The True Vine	Preaching: David Harvey

Regular Notices

Sunday Services

Any who cannot come in person can join via Zoom using the details below:

You can join by visiting
... or using the Zoom app and meeting ID
... or phone (0330) and enter the meeting ID then #
The meeting password is

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 following Zoom details: Meeting ID:

Bible Study Notes

Fiona Worrall orders bible study notes for many people in the fellowship. If you would like to place a regular order or discuss which notes might suit you please see Fiona in person or she can be contacted by phone or text on and by e-mail at