

31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## Dextrous

**"Someone, more dextrous than the rest ..."**

Josiah Gregg, *The journal of a Santa Fé trader*

In an attempt to help me relax and develop a skill which was fundamentally different from anything else I was involved with, a friend gave me an interesting birthday gift a number of years back: a set of juggling balls. I would love to be able to tell you that I mastered the skills required to juggle three balls, and that, as a party-piece, or an astonishing children's address, I could amaze the assembled company with my dexterity. But I can't! I just couldn't get the hang of it at all.

I should have persevered. If I had, something might have "clicked" and I'd have a skill I would never lose. But no! I didn't put the effort in. I chose not to give it the time it needed. I gave up trying. Eventually, the juggling balls found their way to a church bring-and-buy sale. I hope the person who bought them has more skills than I have, and that someone was prepared to put more effort into learning to juggle than I did.

I admire people who have a built-in dexterity, to whom juggling, for example, would come naturally. Yet none of us is devoid of ability – even if we have to work hard at learning to juggle. It's just possible that, in one way or another, we are *all* dextrous. In his letter to the Church in Galatia, St Paul tells his friends that he expects them to show, by the way they live, that they are following God's way. He calls this: "The fruits of the Spirit".

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance,  
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

You can *all* live in this way, Paul says. For some of you it might come naturally. For most of you, you'll have to work at it. But each and every one of you has the capacity within you to get it right. All you need to do is believe in yourself, trust that you can do it, put the practice in and you will have what's needed to amaze the world – the very gifts of the Spirit.

You may never be Josiah Gregg's "someone, more dextrous than the rest". You don't have to outdo everyone with your juggling skills. Just keeping the balls moving in the air is enough for our God to say, "Well done! That's dextrous enough for me."

### **A prayer for today**

*Lord, I hope I'm fruitful enough for you, to show I'm still learning and growing. Amen*