



Link Up!

**This is how much God loved the world: He gave His Son, his one and only son....by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.
John 3:16**

Notices

A final reminder to all Church Members that we are holding an extra Church Members' meeting this Thursday evening, 25 February, starting at 7.30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to hold a Diaconate Election with Graeme Smith as the only nominee.

We will be holding another Diaconate Election at our Annual General Meeting on 25th March when Janet Matterface is due for re-election and any other nominations for that election need to be with Janet, as Church Secretary by Thursday 4 March. Get the relevant forms from her by emailing or phoning Janet.

Thursday Night In will be back to normal on 4 March.

At the recent Church Members meeting we appealed from someone to take over the role of B.M.S. World Mission Representative from Janet Matterface with effect from the A.G.M. in March. This needs someone with a real interest in international mission and the confidence to use the internet and email. For more details contact Janet on 01202 676708.

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January are available from Janet as well.



Dear church family,

I've offered to do this week's newsletter to give Suzie a bit of a break and it also gives me an opportunity to share something with you that I've had percolating around in my mind for a few weeks.

One of the things that I've really started to enjoy during the last year has been getting out for a walk in my local area. I've tried to do this most days unless the weather has been really wet, I'm a fair-weather walker really. I've lived in Poole for nearly forty years and in our house in Oakdale for thirty-seven of those years. I've done quite a lot of walking to places during those years because, although I do drive, I didn't have access to the car while our boys were growing up so we had to walk to church, playgroup and school as well as to parks and so on. But in the past year I've enjoyed exploring places I've never been to before. I'll walk up a road and think 'I wonder where that lane goes or where do I get to if I turn left instead of right here?' While I have sometimes walked with John, I

For this coming Sunday

To give Suzie a chance to catch up with her recordings I am suggesting that we again watch one of the SCBA ministers' reflections.

This one is by Claire Hooper who is the Children's, Youth & Families minister for the Regional Team.



It's called 'Beginning again with Brueggemann'

(don't let the title put you off, it is good)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M33XclocUCo>

like going on my own more often as I get a chance to just walk and look and think.

One of my favourite routes has been up through Parkstone Heights woods to Seaview viewpoint. I could use the uphill path and the woods where you can't really see for the trees as a parable but I won't!

The view from the viewpoint is one of my favourite in Poole. I love the fact that you can see all over Poole Bay and I love picking out landmarks. Poole Park, Baiter, Barclays House, the flats at Sterte, the Civic Centre, the hospital.

One Sunday early in the year I walked up there and sat on a seat. It was a nice afternoon and, although I'd been feeling a bit down because of the lockdown, I started to talk to God. 'I love living here in this place, Lord, it's so beautiful' I said. I felt that God said to me, 'I love this place too, I want you to love it like I do'. I realised that God was saying that it wasn't just the scenery that He loved, He loves the people too.

Now we all know that, don't we? We know that God so loved the world....We know that as a church we are meant to share God's love and the Good News of the gospel with our local community. The first challenge is to love people the way that He does, isn't it, and it's not easy. It's easy enough to love the people we get on with, the people who are like us, and the people we are close to, but to love people we don't really know, aren't 'like us', or find hard to get along with, that's another thing. We move from knowing it to practicing it then.

The other challenge is: 'Do we really believe that knowing Jesus and having a personal living relationship with Him is the best thing in our own lives and we want everyone else to experience that too?'

Well, I find that a challenge and I pray that you do as well.

Every blessing

Janet