



# Link Up!

**I will be with you always, even until the end of the world. Matthew 28:20**

## This week

As Suzie is away on annual leave this week she will not be posting a reflection on our YouTube channel for next Sunday. Instead we suggest you watch this reflection by SCBA minister Joth Hunt. It's called 'The Promise of Bluebells'



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfKk8S8VQms>

**Thursday Night In** this week will be led by Stan Goose and we will be finishing off our studies in John's gospel by looking at chapters 20 & 21.

## For your Prayers

Let's pray this week for: -

St James' Church in Poole and Jimmy's Place (formerly Poole Foodbank) based in their Church Centre

The Routes to Roots team as they are preparing to move into the Hill Street premises soon.

Poole Christian Fellowship and their money advice work with Christians Against Poverty

The Poole Town Pastors team who minister to those using the town centre on a Saturday.



## Dear church family

Last week we took the 2nd big step on the Government's 'road map' out of lockdown. Shops, hairdressers, outside seating in cafes & pubs reopened. I was interested while listening to the interviews in the media and conversations I had with people in the variety of reactions people had to this new 'freedom'. They ranged from impatience to get on with more things to reluctance to take the risk of even these steps. Some of this is quite understandable and depends on how vulnerable you feel, how much risk you are willing to take and how comfortable you've become with your lockdown world

This reminds me of the Christian path we have to tread both as individual believers and as a church walking together as Christ's people here in Poole. As we start to return to meeting together and working together as a Church, there is no doubt in my mind that we will not go back to all that we were doing before, or all the ways that we were working before. The past year has changed us all, and perhaps it has helped us to focus our minds on what is really important for us as a church for the future and what we need to let go of from the past.

### Thursday Nights In Plans...

As our 'Thursday Night In' Zoom gathering has proved to be a really lovely time of reading and studying the Bible, praying and laughing together, we'd like to keep it going in this format (namely on Zoom) for the foreseeable future! But in June, it'll be changing from 'Thursday Night In' to 'Wednesday Night In' - if you've not been able to join in before, it would be so lovely to have you along! You can join in either on Zoom via a computer or tablet, or on the phone (you'll be ringing a landline for about an hour, so just be mindful of costs, depending on your telephone plan).

We've just finished looking at John's Gospel together – next we'll be diving into Jonah, and there will also be a special BMS evening in May when we'll be Zoom hosting our mission partners Joe & Lois Ovenden. Here's the plan for the 29<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> May:

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> April: First Impressions: Reading the Book of Jonah together

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> May: BMS Special with the Ovendens (start at 7.30pm, with opportunity to chat afterwards to Joe & Lois afterwards)

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> May: Spotlight on Jonah 1 & 2

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> May: Spotlight on Jonah 3 & 4

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> May: No Thurs Night In because of the Church Members' Meeting on Zoom.

Not only has the past year changed us, but it has changed those around us who we are seeking to reach, and we need to change to be able to do that.

In the same way as people have different reactions to stepping out of lockdown, we may have different reactions to the idea of things changing for us as individuals believers and as a church. Some will feel impatient to move forward and enthusiastic to try new things and others will feel worried and afraid of change. If this change was being driven by human beings then we might be right to be cautious but, if we sense that this change is being led by the Holy Spirit and that He is guiding any changes we need to make, then we are reminded of Jesus words to His disciples just a few short weeks after the resurrection.

Go...

Make Disciples...

Baptise ...

Teach.

**I am with you always, even until the end of the World**

Let's be ready to go!

Every blessing

*Janet*

*God of the journey,  
the light  
by which we see  
the comfort  
when we stumble,  
the word  
that lifts our hearts,  
the footsteps  
we shall follow,  
be our companion  
through this day.*

*(Celtic Daily Prayer)*