

# Link Up!

**Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10**

## Notices

Just a reminder that Suzie and Mike are away on holiday until Sunday 11th July. In her absence, don't be afraid to contact one of the deacons if you need to chat or need help with anything.

This week's Wednesday Night In will be led by Stan and we will be looking at Ephesians 2:1-10

Then on Sunday 4th July our service will be led by Barbara Goose with John Taylor preaching.

On Wednesday 7th July, Nicola Cornes will be leading Wednesday Night In and we will be looking at Ephesians 2:11-22

## For Prayer

Continue to pray for those who are working in our hospital and doctors surgeries as they try to get the backlog of treatments down.

Pray for those who work in our local schools, teachers, support assistants, admin staff as they help students whose education has fallen behind to catch up lost ground.

Pray for Racheal Peck and her colleague Lucy who work on the Faithworks Smile project working with lone parents and whose work has become more crucial during the pandemic.



*Dear church family,*

As Suzie is on holiday for the next two weeks I am writing the newsletters. I've just got back from holiday myself and we had a really nice break in the Cotswolds' visiting castles, gardens and villages there.

One of the things we were able to do while we were away was to visit some of my family who, like lots of you, we haven't been able to see for a long time because of COVID. In particular we were able to visit my brother and sister-in-law, who moved to Gloucester during the pandemic, and their family and meet their new granddaughter who was ten weeks old while we were away. Her name is Esmee and she is very sweet!

Being with my family made me reflect on the nature of families and how that can relate to our 'Christian family' too. I don't see my brother and his family very often because they live a good journey away and we all live quite busy lives. So, we maybe see each other a couple of times a year. However, we do chat on the phone quite often and email and exchange cards and

**You Tube Reflections for this week and next week are as follows: -**

By Claire Hooper the SCBA Regional Minister for Children Youth & Families called 'The Call of Adolescence'.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUIUCUPr4S0>

By Colin Norris the SCBA Regional Team Leader. Called 'Paddling into the Unknown'



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hF21Zk2DhcY>

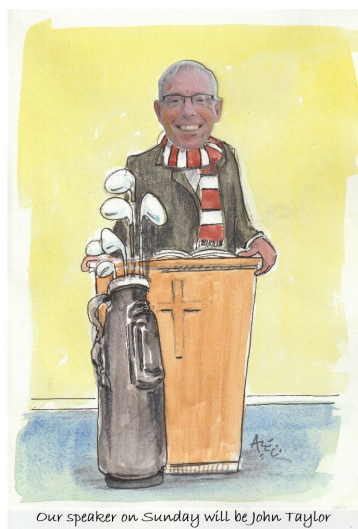
presents for birthdays and Christmas.

But, whenever we do get together we seem to just slip into that comfortable feeling you have with people you know well and love and care about. We don't have to stand on ceremony or put on a front. There's no point because they know us and accept us as we are. Also, even if we are separated by distance I know that, if I need to chat about something or I was in trouble, I only have to pick up the phone and my brother would be there for me.

I know that not everyone has a loving family and that I am particularly blessed that all my family are also Christians which means we share our faith too.

We often refer to the church as being a family, in fact Suzie addresses the newsletter 'Dear church family'. In the same way that my natural family are the people who accept me for who I am, both the good and the bad and are the ones who support me through good times and difficult times, so our church family should be the place where we can be ourselves, without having to pretend. They are the ones who can support us when we are going through difficult times and celebrate with us when we are having a great time. You may not feel comfortable sharing your problems and struggles in the faith with everyone in the church but I would encourage you to find someone or a small group of people in the church who can walk alongside you on the Christian path. Let's try and build a church that supports and encourages one another and where we can be ourselves not what we think others expect us to be.

*Janet*



Those of you who know John Taylor, who is our preacher on Sunday will appreciate Alec's cartoon this week. John is a keen golfer and Southampton football club supporter for those who don't know him!