



LINK UP!

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” Romans 8:35

Pastoral Care in the Pastoral Vacancy - a message from our Deacons:

The Deacons have been thinking and talking about how Pastoral Care can be maintained during the forthcoming Pastoral Vacancy. We want to move towards a pattern where members of our church family care for each other through their existing friendships and relationships in the fellowship.

We feel that we need to find someone, from outside the current diaconate, who would be willing to co-ordinate this, providing a point of contact for people to let the leadership know of any specific pastoral needs or situations for our prayers and concern.

We would also like to hear from anyone in the church who feels they might be willing to visit those who are unwell or unable to come along to church at the moment so



Dear church family,

The horrific events in Ukraine continue to unfold before our unbelieving eyes on our television screens, and it's made all the harder knowing that our friends are in the thick of it.

Here is one story: Pastor Alexander and his wife and family are now stuck in their third floor flat on the outskirts of Kyiv. When the sirens wail, they can't get to a shelter because, of course, Alex can't move after all his operations last month. They have stuck the windows up with sellotape and blankets, hoping to reduce the blast if the glass shatters. They are beside the main road into Kyiv, so they can see the tanks and fighting outside. God is still working though - Alex's pneumonia is a little better, which is a real answer to prayer.

I found myself wishing I could talk to my Gran about it. She was in Plymouth during the Blitz and remembered sitting in the bomb shelter, not knowing what they would find when they emerged when the danger was past. I still can't quite believe

that, if anyone asks for a visit, we can arrange for someone to do that.

If you feel that God might be calling you to help with either of those roles can you come and have a chat with Janet Matterface or telephone her at home, so that she can explain exactly what we have in mind.

Longfleet’s new ‘Faith Outdoors’ group met again in February - here’s how they got on:

Thirteen of us braced ourselves for some high winds a couple of weekends ago for our second Faith Outdoors event which this time took place at Poole Park, followed by bacon baps and cake.

The next date will be Sunday 13th March. If you would like to join this group of intrepid hikers, contact Carri.

Here is a photo from the event, and it certainly looks as if a good time was had by all!



that this situation is repeating itself in Europe in 2022. But it is times like this that bring passages like Romans 8 sharply into focus, and we can pray them over the lives of all those who are suffering as a result of this conflict:

‘What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’ (Rom 8:31-39)

Keep trusting!

With love,
your Pastor