



# Link Up!

**Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you have no money come, buy and eat !  
Isaiah 55:1**

## Notices

As you probably already know, we have been running two weekly Pilates classes on a Thursday afternoon in partnership with Smile, the lone parent group. From 9th June we will be moving to just running one class that starts at 1.30pm. A creche is provided for young children to allow parents to attend. The cost is just £3 for an hour's session. All you need is an exercise mat and comfortable clothes for exercising in. The exercises are all about using breathing and fairly gentle movements. If you or anyone that you know would be interested in attending do get in contact with Janet Matterface.

Is there anyone who would be willing to join the cleaning rota for cleaning the church, parlour & entrance lobby each week? We have recently lost one person who was on the rota and soon to lose another. The current rota comes round about once every seven weeks. See Janet to find out what is involved.

Janet will be on holiday between 21st & 29th May and in her absence please contact either Stephen on 07871 162915 or Graeme on 07398 454008 with any urgent questions.

## Building a Bigger Table!



Rev Hayley Young

*Dear church family,*

Some of you may already know this, but most probably won't realise, that this coming weekend we are going to be invaded! Don't worry, its only that hundreds of Baptist Christians are going to be arriving in Bournemouth on Friday until Sunday for the Annual Baptist Assembly, taking place at the BIC. We haven't been able to have an 'in person' Assembly for two years because of the pandemic. As it is in our area, I am going along on Saturday and Sunday to represent the church.

'What's a Baptist Assembly?' you may be thinking. Each year Baptists gather together to conduct the business of Baptists Together and BMS World Mission, to talk about what God may be calling us as a denomination to be involved in, to worship together and to hear some good speakers share God's message to us as part of his Church in the UK. I've been to several of these events in the past and usually found them inspirational, challenging and enjoyable. I know I'm probably a bit unusual in

### **Poole Foodbank**

The Poole Foodbank at Jimmy's place in Poole is currently experiencing high demand as the cost of living, including food, is rising, as we all know ourselves. If you can give even one item to the foodbank you can help a family or individual who are in need.

Most of the large supermarkets have a donation basket after the tills where you can leave items for them to collect. Alternatively, there is a large wooden bin in the Dolphin Centre (outside where M & S was) and you can put items into that when you are in Poole. We do also have a basket in church, near where we serve refreshments after the service, and if you put items into that we will make sure they get to the foodbank.

They are currently short of:-

Tinned Meat (Ham, Corned Beef etc)

Tinned Rice Pudding

Cartons of Long-life Milk

They are also very grateful for toiletries like:-

Shower Gel

Shampoo

Deodorants

Soap

Disposable nappies (size 3 & over)

Toilet Rolls

enjoying spending my weekend listening and participating in a large gathering of people, most of whom I won't know!

One of the highlights of the weekend is usually to hear the Baptists Together President speaking about their theme for the year. Each year Baptists elect someone to be their President. That person has a role to play over three years, first as President elect, then a year as President and then finally a year as Past President. In their Presidential year they bring a theme to the churches and Associations which they believe God has given them to give a sense of direction to Baptist Christians.

The President for 2022 is a young minister called Hayley Young and her theme for this year is 'Building a Bigger Table'. Now I don't think this is anything to do with carpentry skills! In her profile she says that as churches we have to face the challenge of welcoming people of all ages and backgrounds. This will involve listening, learning, hearing, and respecting those who are very different from us

In particular she mentions the need to connect with a generation who live their lives through online and digital means. This is something that may be quite alien to most of us but the world is changing at a fast rate and the church is being left behind. If we don't meet this challenge we risk being thought of as irrelevant to the majority of the people we are told to go and 'Make Disciples' of. It will be very interesting to hear what Hayley has to say to develop this theme.

But its not just a nice theme for a weekend Assembly. It is something that we as a church need to take onboard ourselves as we try to discern God's will for the future of our church. Can we become more welcoming to those who are very different from us and are we willing to listen, learn, hear and respect those we meet in our community as we try to build a 'table' big enough to include them? We like to think ourselves a welcoming church but do we like to stay in our own groups and not make the effort to get to know people who are different from us? How good are we at making friends outside the church and listening to what they think about God and finding opportunities to share our own experiences with them? Just something for each of us to pray about and consider.

Every blessing

*Janet*