



Link Up!

'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.'
Ephesians 2:8-9

What's on in July

On Sunday 3rd July we will be holding another of our Prayer Focused services, with Graeme Smith leading it. We have listened to the comments made at the Church Members' meeting about the previous two Prayer Services and as a result will be trying this one in the church with some of the seats set out into small prayer groups and with communion in our more familiar format. It is really important that we pray together and, if the idea of praying out loud in front of other people worries you, then you can just sit and pray quietly and listen to other people's prayers.

On Sunday 10th July we will be having a visit from Stephen Ashby, one of the former ministers from Hill Street as our speaker and he will be starting the series on 2 Corinthians. Stephen will be returning to take services in August and September as well.

The service on Sunday 17th July will be led by Andrew Williams, the retired headteacher of Corfe Hills School who now attends St Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

And on Sunday 24th July we will be having a visit from Ben Lucas who is a Pioneer Minister in Dorset and was a past minister at Canford Heath Baptist Church.

Grace...

Back in March when Stan and I tested Positive for Covid, our daughter Rachel suggested that this would be a good time to get into Wordle. Now I love playing with words and particularly doing Codebreaker puzzles, so Wordle seemed a good idea. If you haven't encountered Wordle yourself it is a word puzzle on the internet. You have a grid five squares across and 6 rows down. Your mission is to find the 5 letter word that the person (or robot?) at the other end has chosen for each day. Think of a 5 letter word, put one letter in each square along the first row and press 'Enter'. It will tell you the letters you have right and show the ones not in their word. By the process of elimination you should, before using up all 6 rows, have managed to work out their choice. It sounds confusing perhaps, but in actuality it is very simple.

A great starter word came to me the other day – GRACE. It was a good word for the game, but so much better when one considers how important GRACE is to our Christian lives. In Ephesians 2:8 we read "For it is by grace you have been saved"... and further that it is a 'gift from God'. It is by God's GRACE, that I can come to Him and know that my faults- the things which I do that are outside His loving plans for me – are forgiven whether I deserve it or not.

Where does that GRACE come from? The old definition in church is that it is **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. It means that Jesus Christ picked up the pieces of my life, those now and in the future, and took them with Him when He went to the cross. He paid the penalty for me.

On Sunday 31st July there will be no service at Longfleet as we will be joining with Parkstone Baptist Church for a joint service. The service will include contributions from our own as well as Parkstone's congregation. Richard Stamp a member from Poole Gateway Church will be preaching. Lists for you to sign up if you need transport to get to Parkstone or can offer transport will be up in the entrance foyer in a couple of weeks' time.

Other Notices

This year's Baptist Assembly will be featured on Songs of Praise, with interviews from some of those who participated in the Assembly and some of the content included. This will be broadcast on Sunday 26th June so set your recording device or watch on catch up, BBC iPlayer, or live if you are at home.

Janet has been having a chat with the ladies who run the Smile Connect work within Faithworks Wessex about any other activities that they would like to put on for the Mums they are in contact with. We already, as you know, host the Pilates class which includes our own ladies and some of the Smile mums. They say that they might be interested in a fortnightly craft morning if we had some people who would be interested in helping with this. This would be for adults and would be a chance for some of them who would like to learn a new craft skill or bring their own craft interests along for a morning chat and craft session with coffee. We have talked about a Tuesday morning twice a month to avoid clashing with existing church premises users. We wouldn't think about starting it until the autumn. Are there any Longfleet folk with a 'crafty' talent who would be interested in sharing their knowledge or helping out at something like this? If so, have a chat with Janet.

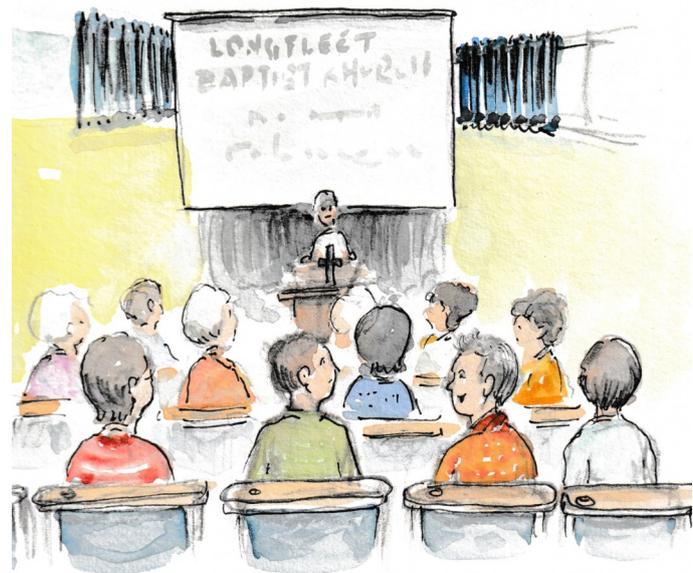
The more I thought about that five letter word, often used so glibly, I realised again what an important word it is. It would have carried extra understanding to Jesus' followers, because when He died it was the time of Passover when lambs were sacrificed in memory of their escape from slavery in Egypt. We talk of Jesus as 'The Lamb of God – who takes away the sins of the world'. (John 1:29) That's GRACE. We don't deserve it, we didn't earn it and can't win it. It is God's free gift to His loved children. That means you and me.

Sometimes, I can get the Wordle word in 3 attempts, usually it's 4, but sometimes I get down to the last row when, by then, I am feeling a bit defeatist but what a relief when the word Phew appears and I know I am there. Our Christian lives can be a bit up and down. There can be times when we feel inadequate and far from God but as the Apostle Paul wrote in his second letter to Corinthians 12:9 - God said 'My GRACE is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'

That is not a Phew moment, but a GRACE moment.

God bless.

Barbara Goose



*"Think it might be a long service,
The wife has brought a lunch box"*