



Link Up!

**‘Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.’
Revelation 3 v 20**

What’s on this month

On Sunday 5th March our monthly Prayer Service will include a visit from Sharon Prior from PACE. PACE is a local Christian charity working in schools across Poole & Bournemouth taking Assemblies and R.E. lessons. Janet will be leading the service.

Sunday 12th March will be our Ladies Contact group’s Anniversary and they will be helping to lead the service. Ben Lucas will be preaching and continuing our series in Luke’s gospel.

Sunday 19th March will be Mothering Sunday and John Good will be leading our worship and preaching that morning.

To draw the month to a close, on 26th March, we have Roger Davis, who worships at Christchurch Baptist Church, leading and preaching and continuing in the gospel of Luke.

Thoughts from our moderator

Since becoming moderator at Longfleet I have led two Sunday services, so by now you will all be very aware that singing in tune is not one of my natural talents, in fact, the sound operators in my previous church would jokingly threaten to keep my microphone switched on during the church singing. (Sound operators at Longfleet, please don’t read this). However, despite my lack of ability, I do so love to sing worship songs in church and without doubt, this was the part of church life that I missed the most during “Lockdown”.

You see, I can sing on my own in the shower or sing alone accompanying a worship CD in the car, but it is not the same as being part of a gathering of God’s people raising our voices in praise to our Lord God.

I have never believed that a person needs to attend church to be considered as a true Christian, but it is the meeting together, the fellowshiping together that unites and builds us into “The Church” of Jesus Christ.

This is one of the reasons that the author of the book to “The Hebrews” has passionately written the following:
Hebrews 10 ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Annual General Meeting

March also brings our Church Annual General Meeting after the service on 26th March. We will have lunch together in the hall after the service and then return to the church for the meeting. The Agenda, Annual Financial Report and other paperwork including details of nominees for the diaconate election and their profiles for you to consider will be sent out on Sunday 12th March. Please make a real effort to be at this important meeting.

Other Notices

We are beginning to make plans for our special event on Sunday 7th May for the Coronation. This will be a Messy Church style service with lunch afterwards and maybe some other activities. So, put the date in your diary and think about anyone you could invite along to come and join us on that Sunday.

Did you realise?

On the back wall of the Church (Wimborne Road side) is our Mission Board. We display on that board information about our Mission Partnerships including our BMS World Mission partners, John Good the Baptist pioneer minister supported by Baptist Home Mission, and the work of Faithworks who run the Foodbank, Smile and other projects in the BCP conurbation. Do have a look at the board from time to time. Alongside the board is a magazine rack with the latest publications from these organisations and others that we are interested in as Church, like Prama and the Evangelical Alliance. Those magazines are for you to borrow and return if you are interested in learning more about their work.

Meeting together, doing Church together is something that should be part of a Christian's DNA.

In my opinion, as someone who has ministered in the church for many years, people still judge church attendance by how much "I gain", by how much "I get out of the experience" rather than the Biblical understanding that we do church, we meet together, in order to support one another, encouraging one another as well as praising and worshiping God.

Therefore, I would encourage **all** of us to physically meet together for Bible study, for Prayer meetings, for outreach and of course for Sunday worship.

Finally, let us remind ourselves of the message we read in the book of Revelation which informs us that we are **in** the "End Times". And during these "Last days" the enemy will be tempting us to lose our love for God's people become like the lukewarm congregation in Laodicea (Revelation 3) and give up on the church.

Can we say together **"I believe in the Church"**

God bless,

Rev Colin Pavitt