



Link Up!

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” 1 Peter 5 v 6

For the rest of this month.

Sunday 19th March will be Mothering Sunday and John Good will be leading our worship and preaching that morning, continuing our series in Luke.

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.

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. All members should now have their copy of The Agenda, Annual Financial Report and other paperwork including profiles for the two nominees for the diaconate. These are Stephen Chaloner and Kim Chaloner. Please make a real effort to be at this important meeting. Apologies for absence can be given to Janet before the meeting.

Lenten Thoughts

As we approach the half-way point of Lent I wonder if you remember having pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? I, somewhat lazily, bought a packet of 8 – so was still eating them on the Friday! Of course Lent is not about pancakes, or giving things up for a few weeks, but is an opportunity for us to think about our walk with the Lord and to recommit ourselves to Him.

Ash Wednesday was the day chosen for our recent Day of Prayer. Although my bible reading has been rather sporadic recently, my reading for that day included Hosea 6:6 “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings”. After a curtailed visit to the church building for the Day of Prayer, due to having a troublesome cough, I returned home and spent some more time in prayer, as I expect many of you did. Whilst working from home in the afternoon, listening to Radio 3, there was a setting of Psalm 51. This includes Psalm 51:16-17 “You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart”.

For us, what are the sacrifices and burnt offerings that we bring to Him that He does not desire nor delight in? I think that it is probably not so much *what* we do in terms of serving God or giving of our time, money and resources, but our *attitude* as we serve, give, et cetera. For example, when we give financially to God’s work, are we giving grudgingly or are we giving as a “cheerful giver”? (See 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 to find out what our attitude should be).

Looking forward to April

Sunday 2nd April will be Palm Sunday and so we will be combining a Palm Sunday theme with our Prayer Service when we have Racheal Sawyer from International Care Network, who work with refugees in the BCP area, coming to share about their work for our prayers.

On Good Friday (7th April) our service will be at 11.15am and will be led by Stephen Chaloner. Before this there is a March of Witness from St Mary's RC Church to Poole Town Centre and Open Air service outside Sainsbury's at 10am

Easter Sunday's service on 9th April will be led by our moderator, Rev Colin Pavitt

On Sunday 16th April, Stephen Ashby will be leading and preaching in our series from Luke's gospel.

Then, on Sunday 23rd April, we have Miriam Biggs the Youth and Family worker from United Church Ferndown to lead and preach, again from Luke's gospel

Finally on 30th April we will be hosting a combined service with Parkstone Baptist with Dave Edwins preaching and continuing our series in Luke's gospel.

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.

Family News

Please do remember in prayer Richard & James Young and their wider family as they mourn the loss of their mum Yvonne who passed away on 10th March.

When we approach God we should not be proud, trusting in our own strength, but should have a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart. This means confessing our sin and repenting of it, with an intention to not sin again: not thinking "It doesn't matter" or "I'm bound to sin again so I won't bother trying not to". We know that God does forgive us, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, and we should rejoice in that sure hope, demonstrated in the resurrection, and be confident in it, but we should not trivialise sin.

When we serve God we should do it wholeheartedly and we should be obedient to Him, even in the things that don't come naturally or make us uncomfortable. We should not be "going through the motions" when we serve Him and we should not be indifferent to Him.

As we draw nearer to Easter, let us consider our walk with the Lord, thinking about our attitude as much as the things we do. Let us ask Him to help us to be the people He wants us to be: humble, wholehearted and obedient.

George Wright

Poole Foodbank, as you might have expected, are facing a huge demand on their stocks, so much so that they need more donations of food urgently.

The specific items required are: -

BISCUITS	FISH (TINNED)
MEAT (TINNED)	MILK (UHT)
PASTA	PASTA SAUCE
POTATOES (TINNED)	READY MEALS (TINNED)
TOMATOES (TINNED)	VEG (TINNED)

I know that times are tough for us all at the moment but if you can manage to buy one item from the list when you are shopping and deposit it in the Poole Foodbank donations basket in any of the main supermarkets, in the large bin in the Dolphin Centre, at the Spire in the High Street, or even some of the High Street banks have a donation point. Please make sure that the basket is for Poole Foodbank as Tesco are also collecting for 'Fair Shares for All' in their supermarkets and this organisation does not supply our Foodbank.