



Link Up!

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15 v 13

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 in Luke's gospel.

Finally on 30th April we will be hosting a combined service with Parkstone Baptist with Dave Edwins preaching from Luke's gospel again.

Other Notices

Yvonne Young's funeral will take place on Monday 17th April with a service at church at 1pm followed by the committal at Harbour View at 2.30pm and refreshments afterwards.

Where do you experience joy?

I know during the whole Covid lockdown days, a lot of us really appreciated the gift of God's creation in a fresh way. For me, watching the birds on our bird feeder was precious time.. they are so delicate, melodic and stunningly beautiful in their way. Dunnock or starling or bluetit... each one known by our Heavenly Father who cares for them, as we are reminded in His Word... oh how much more will He love and provide for our daily needs.

It will be no surprise to most if I say I find great joy in singing... and it's heightened when I'm in a choir.. and when we finally finish on the correct note at the appropriate time!

It's becoming clear to me having experienced the loss of my dear dad in 2021, that pain and joy can co-exist... in a myriad of ways. It is in fact quite confusing to feel multiple emotions that seem to be opposite at the same time, but has led me to more fully appreciate the raw honesty of Psalms. I think grief opens us up to the truth that of course we feel deeply, because we are made in the image of God, who feels so much more deeply and perfectly for us.

“For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him.” Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

I used to think it was his return to heaven... i.e. going back home, that was the joy for Jesus at this point. Having got the suffering part behind him, He could wait and have a well earned rest!

Coronation Celebration

Plans are now underway for our Coronation Celebration on **Sunday 7th May**. We will be starting the morning from 10.30am with coffee or tea, but if you can't get there by then, arrive between then and 11am. It will be an informal morning held in the Church with some craft activities for those who like those, some quizzes and puzzles for those who aren't keen on craft and for those who would just like to chat about the Coronation the previous day and reminisce about the previous Coronation a chance for you to do that.

All of this will take place around tables and you don't need to move too much if you don't want to. There will be a short all-age service with hymns and prayers for the King and a chance to think about Jesus as the King of kings.

When we've finished that there will be a buffet lunch provided by the church and prepared while we are doing the other activities. We'll eat our lunch in the church as well. Finally, we'll conclude the event with a bit of a singsong featuring songs from down the decades of King Charles' life.

We want everyone to come along to this and we want to invite friends of all ages, including some of those who use our premises during the week. We need you, as members of the church and congregation, to chat to those who join us and make them feel welcome. There are invitations available for you to use to invite people you think would like to come to this event.

We will also be looking for donations of cake towards the lunch. A list will be up in the entrance foyer for you to sign up with what you are able to offer.

Smile Lone Parents Fair

Each May our friends from Smile hold a Lone Parents Fair. It's an opportunity for the families who are part of Smile to come together for food, fun activities, some pampering for the Mums, Face Painting for the children, and various stalls selling things. This year's event is on Saturday 13th May between 11am and 2pm at St James' Church. They are appealing for helpers to give a hand with helping set up, help on the various activities and clear up at the end. If you think you could help out with that then please have a chat with Janet.

One day, I heard a sermon where someone said that WE are his joy! We make God known on earth by living in His Holy Spirit, and He robes us in His righteousness as we believe in His finished work on the cross, so that we are unashamed in the presence of God, having a relationship of love with Him today AND into eternity.

"As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." Luke 9:51 NIV

This verse is so full of sorrow and joy to me.

Sorrow that the innocent, compassionate, righteous Messiah CHOSE obedience to death, even death on a cross - that He knew what it would take to set us free and He humbled himself to the brutal abuse, horrific pain and humiliation.

And oh the joy indeed!!! that God's love for all people everywhere is revealed in the suffering servant king. As we turn in our minds towards Easter let us "Consider Him".

The only way to the Father is through the Son, but we are not simply waiting to go "home" for a rest! He is here by His Spirit to reveal his presence, to lovingly teach us and to lead us on... and there's still plenty to do!

May we do the will of God on earth and may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace, as we trust in Him. Amen

Kim Chaloner

Email caution:

A number of people in the church have received emails with attachments of photos recently that look as if they have come from other folk within the church. These are not genuine emails from the people mentioned in the title. Please do not open any attachments contained in these as they will probably introduce a virus or other nasty thing onto your laptop or other device. You can easily see if they are from the person concerned because the email address they have come from will not be the one in our church directory.