



Link Up!

**“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29 vs 11-13 (NIV)**

This Month

On Sunday 11th June, Rev Melanie Pike one of the ministers at United Church Ferndown will be leading our service and continuing our series in Luke's gospel.

On Sunday 18th June, the congregation from The Vine Church in Poole will be joining us for a combined service where one of their leadership team will be preaching.

Finally on Sunday 25th June, Stephen Ashby will be back with us again continuing our Luke series.

Also on 25th June, after the morning service, we will be holding our scheduled Church Members' Meeting. Please bring your own lunch and we will provide drinks. Apologies for absence can be given before the meeting to Janet.

Family News

Please continue to pray for Eileen, Ian, Peter, Andrew & Julie and their families as they mourn the loss of a much-loved father and grandfather, Fred Hoare who passed away recently. The funeral will be held at the church on Friday 14th July at 1pm followed by the committal at Harbour View.

Also remember in prayer the family of Barbara Dartnall after her passing last week. Funeral details will be announced as soon as these are known.

Puzzling out the bigger picture...

I like a jigsaw puzzle. Dining table extended, patio doors open, cold drink to hand (maybe a biscuit or two), a new jigsaw, and I'm quite content. I've been known to lose myself in a jigsaw for days on end...

I am fussy about my choice of jigsaw though. It must be at least 1,000 pieces, and the picture must be interesting. I favour animals over landscapes, but there are all sorts of puzzles available including 3D puzzles, WASGIJ puzzles (where the puzzle in the box is not the same as the puzzle on the box, and Impuzzibles (think images of nothing but baked beans or water!). My record is 1,500 pieces, but apparently the largest jigsaw I can buy has 60,000 pieces and is 29 feet long. I fancy a crack at that, but I'm not sure I have room at home. I might have to cancel Sunday services at Longfleet for a few weeks and take over the floor...!

With a jigsaw, every piece is important. Without every piece being fitted correctly and in its rightful place, you don't get a complete picture. What is on the table is not the same as what is on the box. And it only takes one piece to be out of position and it throws the whole picture out of kilter. Every piece needs to be positioned as the designer intended to get the full picture.

Other news

On Saturday 8th July, Carri Hall is putting on a meal to raise funds and interest in the work of Orfund who have the Molima home in Malawi. This event is taking place at The Gateway Church in Alder Road and starts at 5.45pm. If you would like to go to this, there is a list on the notice board in the entrance for you to put your name and food preference on.

For many years our friends at Parkstone Baptist did a community fun night they called Neighbourhood Night when they invited people in the community to come to the church car park and hall for hot dogs, bouncy castle and other inflatable games. They haven't been able to do one for a few years and, as part of our conversations we have been having together about things we might be able to do with the other Baptist Churches, they wondered whether the three churches might be able to revive the Neighbourhood Night idea and invite people from both our communities and groups like the Smile families to join us. The evening we are talking about is **Friday 8th September**. Does this sound like something you would be able to get involved in? Let Janet or Stephen know as soon as possible.

Bible notes

Stephen will be ordering the next set of 'Daily Bread' bible reading notes from Keith Jones bookshop for July to September in the next couple of weeks. If anyone would like to join the list of recipients, or change their existing order, please let him know by Thursday 15 June. Thank you.

Over the past few months, as we've met with Deacons from the other local Baptist churches (Parkstone and Buckland Road), I've become more certain the future of the Baptist faith in the Poole area lies with greater co-operation between the three churches together with John Good's Ocean Church in Hamworthy. Individually, we might not be able to achieve much, but we can come together as part of the bigger picture of God's church – part of the puzzle, if you like. It doesn't matter if we are a corner piece, or a straight edge, or a picture in the middle – we work better together.

Over the coming months, there will be opportunities to meet with, and pray for, each other. Like us at Longfleet, the folk at Parkstone and Buckland Road face difficult challenges as they consider their respective futures. Some of those challenges are unique to their circumstances, but the reality is we have much common. We all have concerns and worries, but we all desire to see the name of Jesus become more widely known in the Poole area. There is an opportunity here to do something special, and I hope we will all join in when these occasions come around. We are all part of the same puzzle, and I believe we all need each other to function effectively as one church.

The words from Jeremiah have always been important to me. They reassure me the Lord's plans are good, whether for me personally, or for His wider church. He desires to prosper and strengthen His church, and to give us hope in the future. I believe the Lord's plan is to see individual churches coming together in love and fellowship, rather than operating in isolation. As we pray for ourselves at Longfleet, let us also pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ at Parkstone Baptist Church and Buckland Road Baptist Church. We are all part of the same puzzle...

Blessings

Stephen Chaloner