



Link Up!

**‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.’
Matthew 11 v 28**

For the rest of the month

On Sunday 9th July we will be holding our monthly ‘Prayer Service’ which will focus on the work of BMS World Mission and particularly include a visit from our Mission Partners, Angus & Helen Douglas, who we have supported for many years in Nepal. This is their farewell visit as they will be leaving BMS later in the summer. While we will be praying for various topics they give us, there will not be any prayer in small groups this time. Please don’t miss this!

On Sunday 16th July Tim Buttler, the pastor at the Vine Church will be leading our service and continuing in Luke chapter 8 verses 40 – 56.

On Sunday 23rd July, Duncan Ridgeon, our good friend from the Bournemouth Hospital Chaplaincy Team will be leading our service and preaching on Luke 9 verses 1 – 17.

Finally, on Sunday 30th July, we will be joining our friends at Parkstone Baptist Church for another of our Combined Services, where David Chidwick from Faithworks’ Homelessness and Warm Spaces work will be speaking. After the service anyone who would like to can join us in Alexandra Park for a Picnic and ‘get to know you better time’, hopefully with Buckland Road and Ocean Church folk joining us. Don’t forget your folding chairs and picnics for that. Anyone needing transport should let Janet know.

I have spent a lot more time on Social Media over the last couple of months... and I’ll come back to why, as it does relate to our church family.

However, it was because I was on Facebook in mid-May that I happened to see an advert from Cancer Research UK inviting people to sign up to fundraise for them by doing 100 skips a day every day in June. In my mind, I wandered back to sunny days in Chelmsford as a child, when I loved to skip up and down my garden, and in the primary school playground... a bit of double dutch (two ropes). Ours went “Over under, sounds like thunder, over under in”. (Or something like that!) Full of reminiscence about the joy and freedom of skipping (and possibly with those infamous rose-tinted glasses on), I rationalised that it must be like riding a bike... you can’t forget how to do it. It is “child’s play” after all. So I signed up.

Then... about 3 hours later – I was suddenly full of regret! What HAD I been thinking?! Would I even be able to manage 20 skips a day, let alone 100?! And to do this on social media?!!

I rushed to take down my Facebook post before anyone saw my invite to sponsor me....

I was too late... my friend Angie had already seen, commented, and sponsored me. Alas. I was committed to the task!

The skipping rope arrived in time. I had no excuse. So come the 1st of June 2023. I was in my living room and set my mobile phone to record the event for posterity.

How to be humbled – part 1. Sign up to do 100 skips a day. Part 2 – film yourself huffing and puffing and put it on your Facebook page as evidence. Wobbly and out of puff.

Don't forget your favourite songs and hymns!

Something to think about ready for next month. Our Prayer Service on Sunday 6th August will be a bit different from our previous ones. We will spend some time praying for summer events and holiday activities. But most of the service will be in your hands to some extent, as we are inviting you to choose your favourite hymn or song for a 'Songs of Praise' style service. We'd particularly like you to share with us why the song means so much to you and if you'd also like to share a favourite bible verse that would be great too. Please can you write down your song choice and/or bible verse choice and also, in a few words, why they mean something to you. Put your name on the paper too. You do not have to speak up in the service if you don't want to, but if you would like to that would give Janet's voice a rest! Song choices to Janet by Sunday 23rd July at the latest please.

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 & refreshments at The Long Barrow, Harbour View at 2.30pm.

For those of you who weren't in Church on Sunday. Toby and Alissa had good news recently about their trip to Cambodia. A few weeks ago, Rev Claire Hooper, who is one of the Regional Ministers for SCBA, was with us taking our service and was really interested in Toby & Alissa's trip and the support that folk at Longfleet have given them in buying their lovely cakes and Alec's cartoons. She sent us details of an SCBA Fund which gives grants for people going on Mission trips. She encouraged the family to apply for one and Claire the twin's mum did along with a letter of support from the church.

They received a grant of £1500 from SCBA which covered all the outstanding costs including paying off money they had borrowed and purchasing their remaining kit for the trip. Claire wanted me to thank the Church for all the support they have given the family over the last 18 months, and we also give thanks to God for his blessing. Toby and Alissa will be off to Cambodia on 18th July, so do pray for them while they are away. This may not be the end of the cake consumption, so watch this space.

But I got through. Having signed up and completed day one... THEN I prayed – God help me! Because the reality is that many people I know and love have been impacted by cancer and quite frankly, I didn't want to let those down who were saying they would love to do it in memory of their very precious people. Very quickly I saw the beautiful side of Facebook. Not so much in the donations coming in (though they speak to God's generous heart) but very much in the encouragement and support I've received.

And each day .. yes. I skipped. Yes I wobbled and got very out of breath. And every single day at least one person wrote something encouraging as I posted that day's video evidence.

It would have been wisdom to pray first, but God's grace has met me in every kind word since I've started. And it's okay if I'm wobbly and not that graceful and basically just thumping around. It's not about me after all.

There's more to social media than filtered photos and fakery. Sadly there is that – but there is also real life happening in a social media context. I still very much value meeting in person – you can't beat a real hug for example, but social media is a way to connect people where they are. I've seen many churches trying to reach out to their local community on Facebook and Instagram; and there is room for LBC too! Our burgeoning social media takes a bit of thought and time, but what a privilege to be able to. I tend to focus either on scripture or on the Sunday Services coming up – but we are reaching out to our community through social media, and – to follow the theme of last Sunday, seeds are being sown. We trust that God will add to the number those being saved in Poole, wherever He meets them on the way.

If you have any photos of Poole that you'd be willing for me to use, that would be lovely, or any artwork, that would be great. Most of all - Please be praying about this – that each video and post would reach the right person at just the right time, according to God's will and purpose for them. No matter how wobbly or imperfect that God will use what is offered anyway. It's not about us, after all. To God be the glory in all things! Even Facebook!

Kim Chaloner