



Link Up!

'But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.'
Hebrews 3:6

For the rest of the month.

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 Dave Chidwick from Faithworks' Homelessness and Warm Spaces work will be speaking. **Don't forget the service there starts at 10.30am.** 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.

Family News

Please continue to remember Norma Knight in your prayers, as she continues her treatment and has been very unwell during it.

The Family of God

It was a privilege recently to prepare a floral arrangement for the church at Fred Hoare's funeral. As I worked at it, my mind went back over some of the things I will always remember about Fred. His loyalty to the church, years of service on the diaconate, pride in the accomplishment of a new sanctuary back in the 70s (before I came to Longfleet) but most of all the fact that on our first time at Longfleet in 1977 he spent time talking to us long after most people had left. It was the beginning of a long friendship which encouraged us to become part of the Longfleet family.

As I write this another memory has come into my mind. It was 23 years ago today that we received the gift of our first grandchild. Can we believe that those years have gone by? We are left with memories of our first introduction to this precious bundle of love. Those memories include her first visit to the beach, here at Canford Cliffs. The delight of introducing her to sandcastle building and swimming in the sea. Of running into the waves some bigger than she was, and sharing her laughter as the water hit her full in the face. Yes, she could swim! Happy memories and ones repeated three more times with our other grandchildren as each one found their place in our family.

Looking forward to August

On Sunday 6th August, which is our usual date for a Prayer Service, we will be having our 'Songs of Praise' where we will be singing a good selection of favourite songs and hymns chosen by various members of the congregation with an explanation of why they mean something to them. We will also be praying for some of the summer events and holiday activities taking place in our town. The service will include our communion time as well.

Then on 13th August we will be led by Robin Wood who some of you will remember from previous times. He will be continuing the series in Luke's gospel from chapter 9: 18 – 43a.

On the 20th August we will have Andrew Chadwick from Wimborne Baptist Church leading us and continuing on from Luke 9: 43b – 62.

And to complete August we will have Stephen Ashby leading our service and preaching beginning Luke chapter 10.

Harvest

Those of you who were at the Church Members' meeting in June will remember that we talked about the idea of having a Harvest Lunch after the morning service on the Sunday of Harvest Thanksgiving, 24th September. This is instead of an evening Harvest Supper on the Saturday before Harvest that we used to do until 2019. The suggestion was that we have a buffet lunch, like the one we had at the Coronation Event and then follow this with some form of 'social activity'. We'll probably make the buffet a 'bring and share' event, but with a list up in the entrance for people to offer various items of food, so we know we have a good variety of food. In the past we have had a quiz at Harvest Suppers, but we have planned to join the national Tear Fund Quiz on Saturday 7th October (details still to be finalised). So, does anyone have ideas about what they would like us to do as a bit of after lunch fun? If so, please come and have a chat with Janet as soon as possible.

A few weeks ago, at Contact, we shared with each other our memories of our favourite place. I thought long and hard, but my mind kept coming back to the happy times I've experienced around the Christmas dinner table. On these occasions when we can all be together there is something special being family. We lived just round the corner from my aunt and uncle and two cousins. We spent Christmas Day with them, and they came to our home on Boxing Day and we did it all over again. We crowded into my parents dining room, which we could just about fit into, if some of the furniture was removed. We sat squashed around the table, and Dad sat on his own in the alcove by the fire place. Laughter and fun still rings in my head. Now, with family of my own, it is a delight to have everyone seated round the table in my home, or one of our girls' homes. It doesn't matter whose home, whether we are in Somerset, Berkshire or Broadstone, it is being family which counts and makes those memories.

This is what it means to be family. This is what it should be like to be in the Family of God. This is what I believe Jesus had in his mind when he gave us the 'family' meal which we all share as we come to the communion table. Just think about his words. **"Do this in remembrance of me" Luke 22:19.** A meal where we sit down together and remember Jesus. A time to reflect on the time when we first came to the Lord and to re-examine ourselves as we remember all that He has done for us.

A family meal, when the church sits down together as one and remembers. **How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. 1 John 3:1.**

Barbara Goose