



Link Up!

**I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139:14**

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.

After the service there will just be a short Church Members' meeting to update members about developments in our pastoral search process. This should be quite brief and there is no need to bring lunch for this meeting.

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 Ken Adolphe, the chaplain at Blandford Army camp, leading us and continuing on from Luke 9: 43b – 62.

And to complete August, on Sunday 27th, we will have Stephen Ashby leading our service and preaching from Luke 10: 1 – 24.

I have seen this past month as an opportunity to invest in family. It's been a time to support when I went to Penrith at the end of June to help Sophie and Jamie to care for Liza when they were unwell. It was a time to rejoice at Georgia's Priesting Ceremony and at the overseeing of her first Communion Service. It was a also time to enjoy Liza's third birthday when she came down to us at the beginning of July, as well as a time to relax with all the family at a campsite in Wareham. And then, we all joined with extended family last Saturday, to celebrate Mum's 90th birthday at her flat in Bexhill.



Today, now that everyone has gone, I am able to reflect more deeply on what it means to be family.

Firstly, I am reminded through the photos taken on Mum's birthday – spanning four generations, that although we may share certain looks, characteristics or personalities, God's creative genius goes beyond our inherited DNA. We are all unique.

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.

Family News

Please continue to remember the family of Christine Maxted who passed away on 19th July. Her family will be holding a private funeral at Harbour View on Friday 18th August, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Longfleet at 11.30am, to which we are all invited. The service will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall.



Secondly, I was taken back to our Malawi Evening which took place three weeks ago. It was such an encouragement to spend time with sponsors and friends of sponsors of the Molima Family Home. It was an opportunity for us all to delight in the work being done in Malawi under the capable supervision of Wezi. Like family, we

rejoice with her in the children's achievements as well as share in their disappointments. It is always uplifting to see their appreciation and commitment to God shine through – even when confronted with difficulties.

Thirdly, as members of God's family, we can rest in the knowledge that he knows us completely and our steps are ordered by Him. He already has our successes and failures in His hand. He loves us when we do the right, and even the wrong thing and He wants to spend time with us.

Being part of a family isn't always easy but when we invest we reap the benefits. Let us remember to pray for our close and wider families, and thank God that we belong to Him.

Psalm 37:23, 24

If the Lord delights in a man's way, He makes his steps firm; though he stumbles, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.

Carri Hall