



# Link Up!



## During this month:

Sunday 3rd Prayer Service with Pam Anselm from Christians Against Poverty led by Stephen.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Rev Ken Adolphe coming to 'preach with a view to the pastorate'. See over for details of after the service.**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Peter Phillips from The Vine Church, continuing our series in Luke's gospel chapter 11:1 – 13.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Harvest Thanksgiving led by Stephen Ashby, continuing in Luke's gospel chapter 11: 14 – 36 and also focusing on the work of International Care Network

## Family News

Please remember Pauline Pudney in your prayers. Pauline had a fall recently and broke her hip requiring a hip replacement operation in Poole Hospital.

The other Sunday, when Ken and his family were making their introductory visit with us, many of you know that we also had Lynn Green, General Secretary of Baptists Together, with us. She had brought her dad John, who used to be a member at Longfleet, to see us.

I felt that it was very significant that she was with us on that particular Sunday and was reminded of the message that she sent to the church at the time of Suzie receiving her full accreditation as a Baptist minister. Lynne and Suzie had 'met' at a virtual meet and greet as part of that Assembly programme. Soon after that Lynn felt led to record a message to Suzie and the Church which, even at that time, seemed to me when I heard it to be very important.

She began by saying that she wanted to remind us of who we, as a church, and who God is. She told us about her family history with Longfleet from the time when the church had supported her Gran who lived in Tatnam Road when her daughter died. Then later John, Lynn's dad, coming to faith in Christ at Longfleet and meeting her mum, who was not from a Christian home, at the church youth group. They got married at Longfleet and then later moved to Winchester Baptist Church where Lynn and her brother grew up and came to faith themselves and where Lynn met her husband and first felt a call to ministry. Now she is the General Secretary of Baptists Together and her son and his wife are following on in the Christian faith at Boyn Hill Baptist Church.

#### Preach with a view visit

Following on from the service on 10<sup>th</sup> September we will be having a 'bring and share lunch' with an opportunity for everyone to get to know Ken and his family better. A list for you to offer food for the 'bring and share' lunch will be on the notice board on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Please sign up to say what you can bring.

Then, after we have eaten, there will be a chance for Ken to share more information about himself and for members and those in the congregation to ask any questions that they would like him to answer. If you have a question you would like to ask on that day, please let Janet have that in writing by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September or by email by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The questions can then be forwarded on to Ken and also Colin who will be chairing that meeting.

#### Harvest

This is a reminder that our Harvest Thanksgiving Service is on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September. We will, as usual, ask you to bring items of food for Poole Foodbank to add to our Harvest display. Our financial offering this year will go to the work of International Care Network and envelopes for this offering will be on the seats on that Sunday.

After the service we will be having a 'bring and share' Harvest Lunch and a list for you to sign to say you are staying for that and another list to say what food you are able to bring for the lunch is on the notice board in the entrance. Please sign up to this by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September as Janet is away during to following week and will want to make the necessary calculations about food needed before she goes away. The lunch will be followed by some light-hearted social activities.

Lynn said that this was just one of many examples of the seeds of faith that were sown at Longfleet over the years. The Church didn't set out to nurture a future General Secretary but without the faithfulness shown at Longfleet over the years that may not have happened.

Then she went on to quote the scripture from Isaiah 43 above. She said that at first it may seem a bit strange that God is saying 'I've done all these things for you – but forget about them'. What God is really saying in that passage is don't dwell on the past. Because the things that God has done in the past will almost certainly be different from the things that He is going to do in the future. What we are called to do is remember who God is and that the same God who did the things we remember in the past is the one who can do new things through us too. He is calling us to remember who we are, and that God is at work in us now. We need to wait on Him and be willing to do what He leads us to do. The truth is that we may not see the fruit of what He does through us, but the fruit will be there and one day, when we get to heaven, we will be surprised to discover the fruit of the work we have put in.

As we consider Ken as our future minister, my prayer is that we will all be encouraged by this word from God.

*Janet*