



# Link Up!

**Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! Psalm 32 v 11**

## For the rest of October

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The Vine Church will be worshipping with us again and Bally Verriah, one of their preachers, will be preaching on Luke 12: 1 – 12

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Martin Poole will be leading and preaching on Luke 12: 13 – 34

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Our friends from Parkstone Baptist will be joining us for one of our Combined Services with Stephen Ashby preaching on Luke 12: 35 - 59

## Forthcoming Events

Following the success of last Christmas' Rock Choir Event for Poole Foodbank, we have arranged for them to come and do another event this autumn. We have scheduled this for a bit earlier than last year because we discovered that the Foodbank really need the Christmas food donations quite early to enable them to pack and distribute food hampers to those that need them. So, our Rock Choir Event will be on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. The time still needs to be finalised as the Rock Choir have another event on the same day but put the date in your diary now and come along. Don't let the title 'Rock' put you off coming, we aren't talking about heavy metal just some songs with a contemporary feel to them. We will also hold our own Christmas Food collection around the same time. More details in the next Link Up.

King David knew a lot about God's love, and His abundance of mercy. I was reading the rather wonderful Psalm 32 recently... isn't it amazing how David was able to say "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit." How amazing an insight into the goodness of God he was given by faith... and how much bolder we can be about how crazily blessed we are, having met the Lord in our lives.

I'll come back to Psalm 32 in a minute...

Thank you to everyone who asked us how our holiday to Scotland went. For those of you who "Facebook" as a verb and follow my page, you will have seen that the sun (mostly) stayed out for us, we failed to locate Nessie in Loch Ness (but got a lot of fresh air and rain on the top seating deck of the boat), I had an AMAZING sporting win (Crazy Golf champion of 2023... by one whole point) and we made it to a rather lovely conservation focussed zoo.

But the absolute highlight was "Alpaca Trekking" by Loch Ness. I know! Who knew it was even an option?!

Now...when we say "trekking" in this context, we mean a very gentle amble through the trees for ten or fifteen minutes... with some moderate slopes to traverse to get to the water's edge of the Loch for photos. Each person in the group was handed a rein to their own Alpaca... after spending some time feeding the Alpacas some carrots to build trust. (Yes... I do understand the food as an incentive principle... I like to stop for a cuppa and cake on most walks after all!)

#### News of our Pastorate

For those of you who were unable to be with us at our Special Church Members' Meeting on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, the members at the meeting voted unanimously to call Rev Ken Adolphe to be the full-time minister of the church. Following on from that, he was given a formal invitation to be our minister. Within a couple of days of the meeting, Ken and Nicky had visited the manse to see what we were offering in terms of housing, and they were very happy with it. So, Ken has now formally accepted our invitation.

The Deacons are still finalising the Terms of Appointment and other formalities, but we hope to have Ken in place by Easter week to take his first services then. He and Nicky are very excited to be joining us. In the meantime, he will be completing his service with the Royal Corps of Signals on Christmas Day and taking various periods of paid leave he is entitled to from them. He will be using some of that time to have a much-needed sabbatical, his first since entering the ministry. Let's continue to pray for him, Nicky and their children as they prepare to move to Poole.

#### Family News

Anne and Ernie Belbin have now gone into Alexandra House Care Home. They seem to have settled in well, though both of them continue to have health concerns. Do remember them in prayer.

It was clear that the Alpacas knew more carrots were coming in about 15 minutes and were keen to get started! I quickly realised that my alpaca relaxed into the walk if I left some slack in the rein... as he (they were an all boy group) clearly knew the route and the rein was just to keep us together, not to drag him along. There were others who were trying to keep their alpaca on a very short leash which increasingly became a tug of war (write your own sermon on that one)!

Coming back to Psalm 32, there is a moment where God speaks through David... saying "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding, but must be controlled by bit and bridle, or they will not come to you."

I read this the day after trekking with an alpaca. God-idence! We are not to trust God and come to him for instruction simply for the "carrots" he gives us.. he wants us to use the understanding He gives us, to see that he instructs and leads us with a loving eye on us... and to follow him in trust. Whether that's through a well worn path we already know, or if He leads us a new way, to know Him and to lean not on our own understanding.

If you'd like to watch Steve trying to instruct a deaf and therefore noisy alpaca NOT to mistake his green raincoat for food, it's on our church Facebook page... and also on my phone... happy to share! Just ask!

*Kim Chaloner*

