



Link Up!

**‘He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.’
Psalm 107 v 29-30**

Looking forward to November

On Sunday 5th November we will be holding our monthly Prayer Service with Communion. We have Kate Mellor, one of the trustees from Routes to Roots, coming to share information about their work in particular how the former Hill Street church is being used by the Genesis Centre. Graeme Smith will be leading that service.

Then on Sunday 12th November, which is Remembrance Sunday, we will be starting the service at 10.45am that morning. Rev John Taylor will be leading the service.

On Sunday 19th November, we have Stephen Ashby leading our service and continuing our series in Luke’s gospel with Luke 13: 22 – 35.

To conclude the month on 26th November we have Richard Stamp, one of the Elders at Gateway Church in Parkstone leading our service and preaching on Luke 14: 1 - 24

News of our Pastorate

Things are moving on with our conversations with Ken and Nicky Adolphe and we have now agreed that he will start as our Minister on Monday 25th March, leading his first services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We have put the date of Saturday 23rd March for Ken’s induction and just need to agree a start time and guest preacher for the event. Put it in your 2024 diary as soon as you get it.

As I write this article, Stan and I are on board ship and sailing into the Atlantic Ocean. October is the season of storms and we are facing our third in 2 ½ weeks. The first, Storm Agnes, was quite rough but we battled through. (Well, the ship, the Captain and crew did) This meant that we were late arriving at our first port of call, Halifax in Canada.

Our second port of call was Boston, USA. I had pictured Boston as a little colonial town with wood panelled houses and white churches; how wrong I was – a few hundred years late in fact! Boston today is a large, busy, modern city but there are historical signs, if you know where to look and our guide did, of significant places in the history of America and Britain.

We stood outside the church known as the birthplace of the revolution and the beginning of the War of American Independence from Britain and its taxes. (The Boston Tea Party for instance.) We later saw the balcony where the Constitution of Independence from Britain was read out.

Next day we moved to Portland, where I did find my image of New England and those houses. Two days later we sailed into New York harbour - something I've wanted to do since childhood. Dawn was just breaking and the scene was breathtaking. Then in the full daylight, I stood on deck and felt.... very small. I knew New York would be big, but it certainly has to be experienced to understand just how high the buildings rise into the sky.

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 18th 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 on **Sunday 19th December** so that all the food can be taken to the foodbank at the same time. I'll get a list put together of items that they need for Christmas food parcels and include it in the next Link Up

Church Cleaning

In recent months two of the people on our rota for cleaning the church have had to stand down for health reasons. This is now leaving the rota repeating every five weeks which is quite demanding for those on it. We do want to make sure, if we can, that the church is cleaned each week, particularly with COVID still lurking around. Also cleaning less frequently means the job is more demanding when it is done because there's more dust and dirt around. I know that most of you will feel that this would be beyond you, but is there anyone who feels they could help out with this? Please let Janet know.

This cruise is turning into a full and varied experience. We've seen some homes of the rich and famous compared to a little port where the total number of inhabitants would be similar to the numbers on our ship i.e. guests and crew. We've had a helicopter doing a medical evacuation at night to take a passenger to hospital and we've spotted plenty of wildlife including dozens of dolphins and sightings of a few whales including one Blue whale-the biggest creature on the planet so I'm told. When faced with the enormity of these things around us it is good to think that the God, who created the world and all that is in it, cares about me and also about you. The vastness of the ocean, the large open skies, the force of the wind, the burning sun and drenching rain. We've seen it all in these past days, add in the thick fog some mornings and we've experienced quite a lot.

As storm No 3 is winding itself up outside our cabin, and the waves are beginning to get larger and stronger I'm so glad that someone is up on the bridge in control and making decisions for our safety. There are so many comparisons to our day-to-day lives, the world and its problems, the times when things go wrong and not as we planned. For the good days and the bad days it is good to know we have a Captain who will watch over us and care for us. As God said to Joshua ***"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*** **Joshua 1:9**. Or as we used to sing in Sunday School. "With Christ in the vessel we can smile at the storm."

Barbara Goose