



# Link Up!

**‘Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.’  
Isaiah 41:10**

**On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February** our Prayer Service coincides with the BMS Day of Prayer so we will be focussing on their work. The service will also include communion. Janet Matterface will be leading that service.

**On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February** Stan and Barbara will be leading another of our very popular Songs of Praise services. If you haven't already given them your song choices, then these need to be in by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

**On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February** we will be returning to our studies in Luke's gospel with Andrew Williams leading our worship and preaching on Luke 17: 1 – 19

**Then on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February,** we will be looking at Luke 17: 20 – 37 with Graeme Smith.

## Family News

The funeral of Anne Belbin will take place at the Church on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. This will be followed by the committal at Harbour View at 3pm. Please do remember Jonathan and David, Anne's sons, and their families in your prayers at this time.

Despite the bad weather we have been having recently, there have been some days which have been lovely. Cold, but sunny and bright. It was on one of my early morning walks that a lady passed by me on the other side of the road. I couldn't help but notice that despite the clear blue sky and the beautiful dawn which was unfolding all around us, she was carrying an umbrella. We British do not trust the weather and who can blame us, but I have to admit that in those circumstances I had to smile.

It reminded me of a recitation I used to do. I did lots of recitations, both poetry and scripture recitations when I was young. This poem was about a lady who lived in a small village where she was fondly, but quietly, known as Miss Suppose. She would carry an umbrella on the brightest of days. Suppose it rained, and suppose she caught a cold. Suppose the Dr sent her to bed. "Just suppose I should get wet through. Suppose I slip on the stairs and fall. Suppose, and her eyes grew big with fright, Suppose I'm robbed in the dead of night."

One day, the narrator of the poem went on to say, she had learned that Miss Suppose had actually caught a chill and was confined to bed, so she called to visit. Instead of the usual Supposes in her conversation, there were none. The lady in question was bright and happy, even though she wasn't very well. Apparently among her visitors, someone had told her about a couple of incidents in Bible where people 'supposed' and got it wrong.

#### Other news

We had a good Unity Service with St Mary's RC Church and St George's C of E on the 21<sup>st</sup> January. Thanks to those who read, played music, welcomed, made cake, and served teas and coffees. The offering taken that afternoon for Faithworks came to £186.22.

On Easter Sunday, which is Ken's first Sunday with us we are hoping to have a baptismal service. There may be others in the congregation who haven't been baptised but would be interested in exploring this. Janet will be running some preparation classes in the next few weeks and if you are interested do have a chat with her.

#### Give As You Live

If you are a regular online shopper, you may have heard of 'Give As You Live' – a website which allows you to raise money for your favourite charity when shopping at any of over 6,000 online shops. Longfleet Baptist is now one of those charities which you can support. If you do online shopping, would you consider using the Give As You Live website, and nominate Longfleet as your chosen charity, and help us raise some extra funds this year? More information about Give as You Live can be found at [www.giveasyoulive.com/](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/) or you can ask Stephen, our treasurer. If you want to sign up as a supporter, please ask Stephen for a referral first as he can earn a bonus donation for the church if we get a certain number of new supporters. Thank you.

One of these occasions was when the disciples, struggling in their boat, fighting to get across the lake in a storm, saw Jesus walking on the water towards them and supposed him to be a ghost. The other was when Mary, alone by the empty tomb, supposed the Risen Lord, to be the gardener. The anxiety and distress of the moment, almost eclipsed the joy at seeing their Lord at the time of real need.

It was a witty, little poem and fun to say and to hear, but it should make us stop and think how often we put our own fears before our peace with God. How often do we 'suppose' the kind of response we may get if we talk about Jesus to our friends and neighbours. How often do we 'suppose' the outcome of taking a step of faith. How often do our fears (our supposes) stop us from doing the thing the Lord wants us to do or say the words he wants us to say. How often do we get anxious about something in our day to day living: our health, our family, our finances, our future. How often is our Heavenly Father the last one we turn to, instead of the first.

How often do we let our 'supposes' take over our lives? Craig Groeschal has a piece of advice for us which should send our 'supposes' away. ***"When uncertainty, keeps you up at night, then close your eyes and think of something that is certain – God's love"***

*Barbara Goose*