



Link Up!

“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” Micah 6:8

Looking forward to March

On Sunday 3rd March, Janet will be leading our Prayer Service and Communion focusing on the work of Home Mission

Then on Sunday 10th March, Nick Mudge from Gateway Church will be leading and preaching on Luke 18: 1-17

Sunday 17th March, is our Contact Group Anniversary service, and the speaker will be Rev Duncan Ridgeon

Sunday 24th March will be our Palm Sunday service when Stephen Chaloner will be preaching.

On Good Friday, Ken will be leading our reflective service at 11.15am to give time for any who are joining the March of Witness and Open Air in Poole Town Centre to get back to church for the service.

On Easter Sunday Ken will be leading our Easter Service which will also be a Baptismal Service when Holly Ashley will witness to her faith through the waters of baptism.

Induction News

Just a quick reminder to sign up to let us know you are coming to Ken's induction on Saturday 23rd March at 2.30pm. Also, if you can offer scones for the tea or help with any of the tasks on the day look at the lists on the board for that.

In just a few weeks we will be holding the induction service for Ken Adolphe as our new minister. This is a very important occasion in the life of our church, and I hope that you will all join us then.

Some of us have been to induction services before and have some idea what they involve, but this time we are using a slightly different form of induction pattern than we have previously, known as a Covenant pattern. Covenants are a very biblical thing, and you see them throughout scripture. In the Bible a Covenant is an agreement between God and his people with a requirement for certain conduct from them. Covenants can also be between people as well. For example, marriage is a form of covenant where the couple getting married make solemn promises to each other before God.

Part of the wording asks of us 'What kind of people Christ is calling us to be?' The statements that are part of that are based on a document called 'Five Core Values for a Gospel People' which the Baptist Union developed quite a few years ago to help us to commit ourselves to living out our faith in practical ways. We do have some copies of that and if anyone wants to do some extra homework then have a chat with me and I'll let you have a copy to read.

In our Covenant Induction Service, Ken and all of us who are regular members of the church congregation (not just the Church Members) will be asked to make promises to each other. Previous versions of induction services have mainly focused on the minister making promises to the church, so this is quite different. That part of the service will be led by Ken as a kind of conversation between us. Personally, I think that in order to make this type of promise to each other we all need to know beforehand what we are being asked to promise and to pray about that before we come to the service. So, I'm setting out below what we will be saying to each other and asking you all to come prepared for this.

The new minister invites the local church congregation to stand. They speak alternately, the congregation using the words in bold type.

Today we stand with each other,
recognizing the Christ in our midst,
affirming our faith in the God who loves us with a love that transforms us,
and who calls us to work for a transformed world.

Today we stand with each other,
recognizing the Christ in each other,
affirming the calling of the Spirit
who has brought us together this day.

Ken says: Today I bring myself and the gifts I have, and I covenant to serve and encourage this church and community: to respect and care for you, to journey with you, to take responsibility among you, to seek God with you, to listen to God in you, and to work with you to be Christ in this world.

We say: Today we bring ourselves and the gifts we have, and we covenant to serve and encourage this church and community: to respect and care for each other, to take responsibility for the people we are and the people we hope to be in Christ, and to encourage you as our minister as we make this journey together.

What kind of people does Christ call us to be?

We are called to be a prophetic people, working for justice, resisting violence and challenging the abuse of power.

We are called to be an inclusive people, pulling down the walls of prejudice and welcoming the stranger.

We are called to be a sacrificial people, risking uncertainty, becoming vulnerable, and reflecting the generosity of God.

We are called to be a missionary people, demonstrating in word and action the redeeming love of God in the world.

**We are called to be a worshipping people, seeking and celebrating the God who journeys with us,
and open to the Spirit in the whole of life.**

Ken prays: God of life, you call us and envision us, we give ourselves today to each other and to you, trusting that as you call us so you covenant to share this journey with us, to nurture and sustain our life together and to guide our paths.

We say: **Amen.**

My prayer is that, as we commit ourselves to God and to each other we may be filled afresh with God's Spirit and enabled to be all that he calls us to be.

Janet Matterface