



Link Up!

**‘He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”’
Mark 16 v 15**

Changes, changes!

After this edition of our Link Up newsletter we will move to producing just two editions each month which means it won't be strictly every two weeks. The first week in the month will contain an article written by our Pastor, Ken. Then in the third week in each month there will be an article from one of the contributors who have been writing for us in the last two years. It's not a huge change but look out for the different pattern.

News from the minister

Now that Ken has joined us you will need to know how to contact him if you need to. His Church mobile phone number is 07723 062221. There is no longer a landline number at the manse, so his mobile number is the one to use. Alternatively you can email him using this address: Longfleet.pastor@outlook.com

His day off will be a Saturday so that he can spend time with his family. He will also take a quiet day on Fridays, much like Suzie used to, to prepare and reflect personally, so please respect this and avoid contacting him on those days.

In April

Ken plans to continue in Luke's gospel for the next few weeks and we will still hold our monthly Prayer Service on Sunday 7th April. Keep a look out for more details in the next edition.

Dear Friends at Longfleet,

It has been 18 months since I first met your church leadership, offering my services as a moderator. This is an area of church ministry that I have not previously been involved in, so it has been a steep learning curve.

To be honest, I have never been quite sure how much or how little I should/shouldn't be involved in the life of the church, (I hope that I met your general expectations). At this point could I say a big thank you to you all for sharing your stories, your hopes and dreams for the fellowship.

At the induction service on the 23rd I shared my excitement about your future as a church in the heart of the Poole community.

Ken and Nikki are a great couple with fantastic ideas and plans for developing the church's future, you have a very capable and organised diaconate, a useful and well-maintained building and a friendly committed congregation. Longfleet Baptist Church is a blessing to the Kingdom of God.

As this is my last Linkup article, I would like to comment on an issue that has always been close to my heart, that of **Evangelism**. It is so easy for us to sit comfortably in our church buildings every Sunday morning forgetting the Lord Jesus' commission to us, to GO and make disciples (Matthew 28).

At this point I can hear some sighs and comments: If only the task was a little easier, if only people were little more receptive, if only people were willing to engage in exploring the gospel message. But sadly, this is where we are in Poole 2024

A.G.M. Notices Our Church Members Annual General Meeting will be on Sunday 14th April after our morning service and a break for lunch. Bring your packed lunch along and we will provide drinks. The agenda and other paperwork will be sent in advance of the meeting.

We have received just the one nomination for the diaconate election of Janet Matterface. Janet has written a brief profile about herself, and members will be sent a copy of this along with all the relevant paperwork for the meeting this week.

Thanks everyone

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way with the induction service and tea, those who helped with catering, music, flowers, and stewarding. Visitors who attended gave very positive feedback on the service and the whole event.

Smile Lone Parent Fair

Every year at about this time, Smile hold a Lone Parent Fair event for their families at St James' Church in Poole. It's a great time of free activities, free food, free haircuts and nail treatments and stalls where parents can get second hand clothes and equipment from a stall. To put this on they need help from volunteers in the churches in Poole & Bournemouth.

Last year David and I both helped on a beautiful Saturday in May and enjoyed it very much, even though it was quite a full-on day! This year their Lone Parent Fair is on Saturday 27th April between 11am and 2pm and I've already signed up to help again. If anyone else feels they would like to help, then there is a notice on the vestibule noticeboard that tells you what sort of help they need. If you can't help then do pray for the weather, safety of all concerned and that everyone will have a good time. See Janet if you want to know more.

I mention this because with Ken as your pastor, I am sure that there are going to be some interesting people walking through the church doors. Therefore, when people come in with a tattoo on their arm or bright blue hair or using colourful language don't be negative but remember God's grace and love reaches people that we would never have expected.

I will always remember dealing with a group of refugees and thinking to myself: that person is really nice and maybe receptive to the gospel and that other person is aggressive and hostile (he wouldn't even tell me his name!) Who did we as a church baptise the following year? Yes, you have guessed it, the man who allowed God to deal with his anger and hurt. *Mark 2 ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

It has been a great pleasure being your moderator and rest assured from time-to-time Marcia and I will drop by to see you.

May God bless you

Rev Colin and Marcia Pavitt



Easter Island