



Link Up!

‘Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.’ Psalm 37 v 3-4

Coming up in April

Sunday 7th April will be our monthly prayer service and will include communion at which Andrew & Holly will be received into membership. The theme of the service will be ‘Belonging’.

Sunday 14th April we will be looking at Luke 20: 9 – 19 the parable of the Evil Tenants.

Sunday 21st April we continue in Luke with chapter 19: 1 – 26, Zacchaeus & the Parable of the Minas

Sunday 28th April we will look at Luke 21: 5 – 37, the Destruction of the Temple and the End Times

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 should have received all the paperwork for the AGM last week. Apologies for absence can be given to Janet before the meeting.

When I was in my late teens I lived with my Christian Aunt for a couple of years. She had a fridge magnet with a well known prayer on it - God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can. And the wisdom to know the difference.

I wasn't a Christian then and that prayer used to really annoy me. When you're 19 years old you feel that you can change anything, do anything. Why, I thought, should I be at peace about not being able to change things? You might be familiar with the Christmas song, 'Fairytale in New York'. The man sings 'I could have been someone.' To which the woman replies 'Well, so could anyone.'

To be honest, that prayer still does annoy me! It's true, the Bible does teach us to be content with what we've got, but to my mind it's talking about material things. I do a lot of mountain biking and the magazines and websites are always trying to get you buy the latest bike or the newest bit of technology. But the bike I've got is the one I can go out on, the one I can actually ride, and there's no point lusting after something I can't afford; I'm content with the bike I have.

Wednesday Night In

Our Wednesday Night In group will restart again on Zoom on **Wednesday 17th April** when Ken will be leading. In the future we will be returning each week to the previous Sunday's sermon passage with discussion questions for us to take us deeper into the passage. You could prepare for this by having another quick look at the passage between Sunday and Wednesday. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome and the various links to get in will be sent out on 17th with the newsletter.

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.

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.

However, the Bible doesn't teach us to be content with things that really are wrong. We shouldn't be content with things like poverty, loneliness, corruption, abuse of the planet, modern slavery, war and so on. These are the very things that Jesus says we *should* be struggling to change. The Bible also teaches us to recognise those things about ourselves that need to change, to examine our personalities and our behaviours and ask the difficult questions; what do I need to change about myself?

And so I do like the courage part of that prayer. God give me courage to make those necessary changes, in my life, in society.

Both the 19 year old me and the 45 year old me would be more satisfied with the prayer – God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I don't need to change. The courage to change the things I should. And the wisdom to know the difference.

Rev Ken Adolphe

