



# Link Up!

**‘This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.’ 1 John 4:10**

## For the rest of April

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

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

## Then in May:

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May** our Prayer Service & Communion will focus on The Cost of Living/Poverty

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** we will look at the Ascension story in Acts 1: 1 – 11

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May** we will move on to the events of Pentecost in Acts 2: 1 – 21 & 38 – 41.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May** we will continue our series in Acts with Acts 3: 1 – 16 – The Apostles without Jesus.

## Wednesday Night In

Our Wednesday Night In group will restart again on Zoom **this week**, 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 using the links sent out with this newsletter.

Easter Sunday was rather special this year, I hope you’ll agree! It was a special day in the life of our church, as Ken took his God-appointed position as our minister, leading his first Sunday service with us. We looked around at each other and found we had some really lovely visitors joining us, which was such a blessing too. We welcomed holiday makers, local folks visiting for the first time, the wonderful squaddies (or if you know the lingo, “Scaleybacks”) and of course, Holly’s family and friends, coming to show their love and support for her, on her rather special day too.

What a great privilege to bear witness to Holly’s heartfelt testimony and believer’s baptism on that day too! Many of us let the moment transport us back to our own believer’s baptism (and maybe other key moments in time) when we dedicated our lives to Jesus of Nazareth as our risen Lord and Saviour. If you have a moment right now, this would be the perfect time to pause and pray for:

- Holly (and Andrew) – but especially that Holly will hold on through times of tempting that the Holy Spirit will allow and take her through
- Yourself (if you haven’t been baptised yet, here’s a gentle reminder to ask the Lord about it)
- Ken and the deacons – we really need God’s wisdom and grace and we value every prayer
- Ken’s family
- Longfleet Baptist Church – congregation and members, we are one church family

I am aware that some of you do follow along on Facebook to a degree, but I’m not sure how much you will have seen of our Easter publicity online this year. The video announcing Ken’s arrival was well received, with just under 10 thousand views; so please pray that it will be fruitful over time too.

All “kicked off” online though on Good Friday... and I probably shouldn’t have been taken so by surprise, given that my focus was 100% on Jesus Christ as Messiah.

**Are you interested in Environmental concerns and climate change?**

A new local hub of Baptist Union Environment Network is being launched by the minister at Rosebery Park Baptist in Boscombe. They are planning to hold an online meeting on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm. The evening will have a keynote speaker, a talk about what BUEN does, a discussion about what the group might like to do and closing reflective video. The meeting will last just one hour. If anyone is interested in attending this then they should use the following link: <https://roseberyparkbaptist-church.my.webex.com/join/simon.bartlett>

**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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

The image I used on Good Friday was of a man carrying a cross up a hill (see below) and this is the scripture I offered: *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:6-8 NIV)



I also included the time of our Good Friday service of course, just in case anyone was looking for a church family to worship with.

If you mention God on social media, most folks will either put an Amen, or pass on by – with perhaps the odd angry face emoji, but nothing

more hostile than that... usually.

If you put an image of the cross of Christ on social media in 2024, it truly revolts and offends a minority. It garnered relentless mocking of Jesus (and his followers), comments about inciting hatred against those who are non-Christians and furious abusive comments about how God causes wars and cancer and so on and that the church has no place to bring conversations about Jesus outside of our own "religious" pages.

We know that our fight is not with people, because that's what God's word tells us. The spiritual reality is that the fight we are in is with the so-called "master" many are unwittingly serving and enslaved to. So the devil tries to silence the truth. There's nothing new under the sun!

Please pray for all Christians that post on social media, that we would be protected from responding in anger when provoked (because that temptation is right there), that we would have wisdom from God in how and when we respond and vitally, that we would always remember whom we serve.

Something to pray about and to commit to – we are in the good fight. So let us all talk about Jesus Christ openly and be unashamed to do so. The enemy is terrified every time we point to the Cross of Christ and tell people of the certainty of the great love God has for people.

*Kim Chaloner*