



Link Up!

‘Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.’ Hebrews ch 12 v1.

Coming up in May:

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

Sunday 26th May we will continue our series in Acts with Acts 3: 1 – 16 – The Apostles without Jesus. This service will also be a baptismal service (see below).

On Saturday 25th May we will be celebrating the marriage of Holly Ashley and Andrew Ntiamoah at the church at 12noon. Please do remember them in prayer as they start their married life together. Pray that the whole day will go well and be enjoyed by all. Holly & Andrew would love for as many of the church family as would like to join them for the service in the church.

On Sunday 26th May, Andrew is going to be baptised while his family are still in the area so that they can be with us. Remember him in prayer as he prepares for that. Also, if anyone else is thinking about either Believers’ Baptism or Church Membership, do please have a chat with Ken or one of the deacons so that this can be arranged.

21st April was a day I shall not forget in a hurry. It was the day our eldest granddaughter, Phoebe ran the London Marathon. It was back in early July 2023 that I received a very excited message telling me that she had been successful in her application to run the race. It all seemed so far ahead and didn’t seem real until the last couple of months. Of course, it wasn’t unreal to Phoebe as she had to put in the time and effort in preparation.

On that Sunday morning, we had breakfast watching the TV coverage. We hurried home from church and had lunch watching TV hoping to have a glimpse of her. We followed her race using a tracker device on my phone. It showed us how far she had got, how long it had taken between given points, and other details of the race. I have to admit that Sunday morning my heart was racing and my stomach churning as the race progressed.

As she was running my mind went back to 2005 when her little sister, Hannah, was diagnosed with leukemia aged 2 ½ years old. Stan and I had been visiting that weekend, and as Hannah was whisked into hospital, we looked after Phoebe who herself was only 4. That weekend was the start of weeks, months, and years of treatment for Hannah and heartache for the family as Hannah underwent the procedures associated with chemotherapy and many setbacks. Through it all the cancer charity, ClicSargent (now Young Lives Vs Cancer) helped in many practical ways, not only Hannah but by providing activities in which the whole family could participate. That is the reason why I was not surprised that Phoebe chose to run the Marathon raising support for it. She said she wanted “to give something back” and she has, because her sponsors between them raised over £3,000!

Wednesday Night In:

Our Wednesday Night In group are having a good time again with their Zoom Bible studies, which Ken is 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 (see above). Anyone who would like to join us is welcome using the links sent out with this newsletter.

Other News

Part-time job vacancy

The Greenhouse Christian Centre in Branksome has a vacancy for a part-time chef/cook for 16 hours over 2 days a week. If you or anyone that you know would be interested in this then more details are on the other attachment to this newsletter or on the church noticeboard in the vestibule.

As we watched the runners come down The Mall, we were watching the clock. Would she complete the run? She had never run a Marathon before. If there's any reasoning in the saying "heart in mouth" mine was definitely there! We moved nearer to the TV screen. The anticipation got higher as we stared, afraid to even blink... and still we missed her! It was the tracking device which suddenly showed the words Finish 3:52:37. Phoebe had finished her race.

The Apostle Paul knew that feeling. Towards the end of his life, he wrote a poignant letter to the younger Timothy. In effect he was saying that he was nearing the end, but he had run the race, he had kept the faith. Now there is in store for him a crown of righteousness. 2 Timothy 4:7.

We may not be called to God's work in the same way Paul was, but we all have a course to run, a finishing line to cross, an expectation to fulfil. Our reward, our prize will not be something to see until we receive it from Jesus, but we can feel the same sense of achievement that I think you can see on Phoebe's face, when the medal was hung around her neck.



Barbara Goose