



Link Up!

Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Ruth 1: 16

For the rest of September

On Sunday 22nd September our passage will be chapter 16 of Acts where Timothy is introduced.

Finally on Sunday 29th September our friends from Parkstone Baptist Church will be joining us in looking at chapters 17 & 18 of Acts 'Uproar in Macedonia!'

Also, on Sunday 29th September those of you who are Church Members should note that we will be holding one of our scheduled Church Members' Meetings after the service. As usual bring your lunch and our friends from Parkstone have also been invited to join us for lunch, then we will move into the church for the meeting. Agenda and other paperwork will be sent in advance of the meeting.

Harvest Lunch & Social

After our Harvest Service we will be holding a Harvest Lunch with Social Activities to follow. The lunch will consist of Jacket Potatoes with a choice of Cheese or Baked Beans as a topping with a help yourself side salad followed by cake or fruit to follow. A list will be on the Notice Board for you to sign up from Sunday 15th September to let us know you are planning to attend the lunch and to indicate which topping you would like. This will give us an indication of quantities for catering purposes. Please sign one name per line as this makes counting up a lot easier. Family members would be very welcome at this event.

After the lunch there will be a Beetle Drive and some quiz type activities for us all to enjoy.



Well as I write this, our annexe is being stripped and made ready for demolition. Yes, after a lot of talking, waiting and prayer, it's finally happening!

I'm not great at "visualising" based off of drawings, so I can't honestly imagine what that space will look like as a garden. I am also reminded that I didn't know the annexe as a manse in its heyday either, when it was being used for housing, for prayer, for teaching for the kingdom - but my heart knows that whatever form the space now takes, that God continues to have a purpose for it. Trusting Jesus that we will be creative in how we use this for His great name and His Kingdom come... It's just going to look quite different now... I wonder what will come to be?

While our church building was closed last Sunday, Stephen and I decided to visit our friends at Parkstone Baptist Church, knowing that they are currently "doing church differently" - meeting in the vestibule/entrance space and having a more discussion orientated bible focused time. It was joyful for me, as they were launching into the book of Ruth - one of my top two favourite books of the Old Testament (the other is Ecclesiastes by the way!). We were in Chapter One with Naomi acknowledging the loving kindness of her daughters-in-law for the care and compassion they had for her - with both of them begging not to be parted from her, until she persuaded one to turn back

Harvest Thanksgiving

We will be holding our Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday 11th October. This year our Harvest offering will go to the Autonomy Hotline, which Nicky our minister's wife runs. If you want to know more about what they do, then have a chat with Nicky one Sunday. There will be envelopes on the seats on 11th October for you to make a donation and return into the offering box over the following couple of Sundays.

We will also be making a food collection for Poole Foodbank which will form part of our Harvest Display. The demand on the Foodbank services continues to be high and even if you can only spare one item from the following list it would really help those in need. **Please stick to the items on the list and make sure that anything you give has at least 3 months 'best before' date on it.**

UHT or powdered Milk
 Tea bags,
 Jars of Coffee
 Drinking Chocolate
 Cartons of Fruit Juice
 Squash
 Bags of Sugar (500g)
 Tins of meat, meals such as curry or stew, fruit, vegetables, soup, baked beans, rice pudding, tomatoes.
 Jars of pasta sauce
 Pasta & Rice (1KG bags preferred)
 Pkts of cereal
 Pkts of Biscuits or snack bars
 Jars of Jam or Honey
 Toiletries such as: -
 Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
 Shampoo
 Soap & Shower gel
 Toilet rolls
 Nappies (size 3 & over)

to "her people and her gods" and we heard again, how, in her loving kindness for Naomi, Ruth made the life-changing and monumental decision to choose Naomi's people AND Naomi's God (simultaneously rejecting the "gods" of the family she was born into).

When we read this from where we live now in God's story of love and redemption, we can easily see His hand at work of course - but to her, she had NO way to imagine what the future would look like or the impact of this profound and selfless choice. She also had no idea that the Messiah himself would come through her bloodline - how AWESOME is the Lord God Almighty!

I have questions about this decision of hers to cling on to Naomi: Was she just more scared of "going back home" than to a new life with her mother-in-law? Was she so attached to Naomi - was it her love and example that drew her? Or was it something else? God only knows of course, but it's such a fork in the road moment, that it seems right to ponder it.

We all have a propensity to wonder (or worry!) what the future will look like, but going into Chapter one of Ruth again was like visiting a really wise and trusted friend; reminding me that in a time of great uncertainty, grief and great pain and bitterness too, of potential danger, or countless unknowns, trusting in the only true and living God was then the most profound and powerful choice Ruth could make – and it is still is the same for us. When we encounter this small, maybe overlooked story of these very real people taking their place in the greatest story of all, we see so much: provision, a “kinsman redeemer”, wisdom, love and new birth leading to the greatest legacy – culminating into our own spiritual adoption through Christ into this same family. So, this is a story in which we all take our place too, though we may often feel insignificant and unseen – not unlike Ruth the Moabite.

The story of Ruth has always inspired hope in my Spirit. That choosing God and choosing to be with his people, is the most blessed decision to make individually and collectively as His church. We pray and expect that Holy Spirit will draw more and more “Ruths” into a relationship with our Lord Jesus and His people and enable us to submit ourselves to our own humble part in His gracious and loving story. Even if we find it hard to visualise the outcome from where we are today.