



Link Up!

‘Let us fix our eyes on Jesus’ Hebrews 12:2

For the rest of October

On Sunday 20th October we will return to our studies in the book of Acts in Chapters 20 & 21 with Paul’s journey to Jerusalem.

Then on Sunday 27th October we will continue our series in Acts with Paul’s time in Jerusalem in Acts 21/22/23.

Thanks to everyone who gave food for the Foodbank Collection for our Harvest and for those who have given to Nicky’s organisation the Autonomy Hotline. There are still envelopes around at church if you want to give to that over the next two weeks.

Thanks too for everyone who helped with the Harvest Lunch. Those who cooked, those who cleared up and those who put together the games that we played afterwards.

Remember that Thursday at the end of last month, when it rained? Yes, stupid question in the light of the weather we’ve been having this ‘summer’. It was the last Thursday of September and we were all set to go to one of the Barclays Pensioners’ Club lunches at a Golf Club in the country. Over the years we have been there several times, and although we got lost the first time we have it sorted now. Well, we thought we had! The problem was the road which we wanted to use is currently Closed. Fortunately we knew this and had planned a different route. We thought we had it sorted.

We set out on our new route to the Golf Club. After a considerable distance we decided to turn back to see if we had missed a turning, but no. We ended up back at a roundabout we had left some time before. As we went round again, we noticed that a police car was behind us. Heading back down the original road, we pulled in to have another look at the map and the directions we had so carefully printed off.

The police car pulled up alongside us. “Are you alright Sir?” What a relief, someone who knew the area. Directions were given and then he suggested we follow him as he was going that way. Imagine this as the rain sheeted down around us. We gladly accepted his offer and off we set. Sometimes, the rain was so heavy it was hard to see the police car. Sometimes the puddles were across the roads. Sometimes, he got so far ahead we thought he had forgotten that we were coming behind – but there he was, still leading us from the front.

Looking Forward to November

On Sunday 3rd November we will continue our series in Acts with 'Paul before Felix' in chapter 24. **The service will include communion but will not be a 'Prayer Service' as it has been decided to stop the monthly prayer service while we look at other opportunities for the Church to pray together.**

Sunday 10th November is Remembrance Sunday and as usual our service will start at **10.45am** to prepare for the two minutes silence.

On Sunday 17th November we will return to our studies in the book of Acts with chapters 25 & 26, 'Paul before Herod Agrippa'.

On Sunday 24th November we will conclude our series in Acts with Acts 27 & 28, 'Romeward bound'.

Our Christmas Foodbank Concert event

On Saturday 23rd November (4 – 5pm) we will hold our annual event to raise funds and food for Poole Foodbank with a concert this year from Bournemouth Male Voice Choir. You will realise that seats are limited so it is essential that you book your free seat by using the following weblink <https://buytickets.at/longfleetbaptistchurch/1393138> or by scanning the QR code on the poster in the entrance foyer at church. If you don't have access to the internet and want to book a seat chat to Kim or Janet and we'll see about booking you in. Also on the poster is a list of Christmas Goodies that we are asking people to contribute to the Christmas Food Parcels that the Foodbank put together to individuals and families at this expensive time of year. Even one item on that list would help. Or you can give money for the Foodbank running costs. Bring your friends along too!!

If you aren't coming to the concert but want to give to the Christmas appeal then bring donations of food along to the service on Sunday 24th November so that they can be added to the delivery we will make during the following week.

We turned off that road and went along another and finally he slowed to point us to the turning we needed. He didn't stop but he waved and we flashed the lights to say 'thank you' which was a small way of showing appreciation. We were not the last of the members to arrive but we were the only ones who had had a 'police escort'!

You can probably guess where this article is going so I could end it here, but it helps us to have these pointers from time to time, to remind us of what it is like to be a follower of Jesus. Sometimes in our lives we can feel a little lost, confused about our Christian journey. We don't know where we are heading. Sometimes it is easy to lose spiritual sight of Jesus, like driving through torrential rain, our path being obscured by other things which get in the way, or circumstances which happen around us. Sometimes we fall back and we have difficulty finding the pathway we set out on, and then we sense that Jesus is with us, understanding our difficulties and ready to point us in the right direction.

There were times on that journey when we thought the policeman had forgotten us, or that he too was lost as we went for miles on country roads. Do we carry on following him, or do we struggle to find our own way? It was our choice to follow him and get our lunch. That is why, I think the writer to the Hebrews wrote these lovely words **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus**, to encourage us on our Christian journey.

Barbara Goose