



# Link Up!

**‘Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.’  
Psalm 27:14**

## For the rest of November

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

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November we will return to our studies in the book of Acts with chapters 25 & 26, ‘Paul before Herod Agrippa’.

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November we will conclude our series in Acts with Acts 27 & 28, ‘Romeward bound’.

**Ken will be away from the church on a Retreat from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November inclusive. The Monday and Wednesday Bible Studies will still take place as usual.**

### Church Members’ Meeting.

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, after the morning service we will be holding a Church Members’ Meeting. As usual please bring your lunch and we will provide drinks. The agenda and other relevant paperwork will be sent out to members before the meeting. Apologies for absence can be given to Janet before the meeting.

During WW2 my grandfather was a Flight Sergeant in the RAF. But he actually spent most of the war at sea, because he was coxswain on board an Air Sea Rescue ‘Type Two High Speed Launch’. He and his crew patrolled the Channel and North Sea rescuing downed aircrew.

With a top speed of 37 knots the HSL was just about the fastest thing on water; it was so fast that their tactic for getting through minefields was to go full speed. If they hit a mine, they’d be far enough away from it when it exploded that it wouldn’t do them any harm. Well, that was the hope anyway.

Grampa never spoke about WW2, but I did once have a conversation with a crewman of a Walrus flying-boat, part of the same ASR organisation. On one occasion they had landed in rough seas next to a Spitfire that had crashed. He tried to throw a lifeline to the pilot, but the pilot was too weak to grab it. With the weather getting worse, and the Spitfire sinking, the rescuer broke the golden rule - he jumped off the plane, and swam to the Spitfire. He reached the dying pilot, got him out of the cockpit, but by the time he looked around, a thick fog had enveloped them and the Walrus was nowhere to be seen. It took over three hours for them to be found; tragically the Spitfire pilot died and the rescuer was suffering from severe hypothermia.

#### Our Christmas Foodbank Concert event

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 24<sup>th</sup> November so that they can be added to the delivery we will make during the following week.

During Remembrance we often hear the words of Jesus from John 15:13 'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' Heroic actions, such as those of the men of the RAF ASR are the sort of thing that might spring to mind. However, I don't think it's the only thing Jesus was trying to get at when he made that statement.

One of the Core Values of the British Army is 'Selfless Commitment'. Whenever I asked soldiers what that means they'd often go straight to that life and limb understanding; being willing to die for King and country, putting oneself in harm's way. But actually soldiers make sacrifices every single day. Getting up early every morning, wearing uniform, having short hair, shaving, making sure they're in the right place at the right time in the right clothes. They are away from their friends and family and their established support groups. Daily they show Selfless Commitment for the greater good. And that, I believe, is one of the things that Jesus was talking about when he told us to lay down our lives - to surrender ourselves to his will and his purposes daily.

In Matthew 10, Jesus says 'Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever keeps their life will lose it.' It's not an easy instruction, but it's an instruction that comes with a promise 'Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.'

Just like soldiers, we as Christians are called to set aside our own desires, our own comforts, our own wellbeing and strive to put the needs of others before our own. But when we lose our own life, we find the life that Jesus has for us. He came that we should have life and have it to the full. A life of sacrifice and service, yes; but also a life of purpose, of joy, of contentment, of satisfaction.

*Rev Ken Adolphe*