



# Link Up!

**‘Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.’ 1 Peter 5 vs 6-7**

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

### 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.

### Advent & Christmas is coming

**Our service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December** will have the theme ‘God with us’. The service will include communion.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December** will have the theme of ‘God speaks to us’.

**Then on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December** we will look at ‘John the Baptist’.

**On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** we will hold our All-Age Carol Service.

**On Christmas Day** we will have our usual Christmas Day Family Service which will start at **10.30am**.

**Then on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December**, we will finish the year with an informal prayer and reflective service

**Christmas Cards:** We will have the Longfleet Internal Christmas Card Post-box out on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. The cards will be sorted and distributed on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December and 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Please make sure that all cards include surnames as well as first names so that the correct person gets your card.

*‘On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.’*

*His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”*

*“Everyone serves the good wine first, and the inferior after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” John 2: 1-2; 5; 10*

One of my favourite accounts of Jesus in the Bible is John’s exposition of the wedding at Cana. I like his portrayal of Jesus relaxing with friends and family in this special although normal event. A wedding is something most of us can identify with as guests and if we have ever hosted one, we’ve probably also experienced the stresses and joys that come with it.

Our interest in the story picks up when the wine runs out – not a life and death catastrophe but definitely a social disaster in that culture and at that time. Then Jesus performs his water into wine miracle... and we might find ourselves wondering why. He is not saving someone possessed of demons, or restoring the sight of a blind man, or raising a sick child back to life. What he does do, is to intervene in this domestic scene. As a result, the host is saved the embarrassment of losing face.

#### Our Christmas Foodbank Concert event

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (4 – 5pm) There is still time to book seats for our annual event to raise funds and food for Poole Foodbank featuring Bournemouth Male Voice Choir. You can 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 24<sup>th</sup> November so that they can be added to the delivery we will make during the following week.**



What I find encouraging here is the fact that it shows how we can all call on Jesus in any situation knowing he will be there. Maybe the couple should have planned better for the event but he still met their need. It is easy to think our problems are not worth going to Jesus about. Coping with a complicated detour on a long journey, or mislaying something special or fretting over what to get someone for

their birthday might not seem important enough to pray about but I think this first miracle shows us that we, like the host at the wedding can lay all our concerns with Jesus. Just as we delight in our child's first steps – or as in the picture... Joss's first success in standing up, so God delights in our small walks of faith and is with us in all parts of our lives.

So, let us take all of our cares to God.

Let us strive to do as Jesus tells us, even if we can't understand it.

And let us remember that God can save the best until last. Just as God's glory was shown through this first miracle, so God's glory can be shown through us – if we let him.

*Carri Hall*