



Link Up!

‘Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.’ 1 Peter 5:7

For the rest of March

On 23rd March we will return to our look at parables with The Ten Virgins in Matthew 25: 1 – 13

And on the final Sunday, 30th March, which is Mothering Sunday we will be holding one of our joint services with Parkstone Baptist Church when they will join with us.

During Lent, our Monday and Wednesday Bible Study groups will be following a Lent series called ‘Open the Doors’ which was written by Ken and Nicky. We hope that some folk from the other Baptist Churches in Poole will be joining us for this. If you want to join in, then the Monday group starts at 6.15pm and the ‘Wednesday Night In’ group on Zoom starts at 7.30pm. Talk to Ken or Janet for more details.

It’s that time of year again. It doesn’t take long for the Christmas cards to disappear from the shop displays to be replaced by the next occasion to be celebrated. First came St Valentine’s Day and now there are Mother’s Day cards and Easter cards.

Mothering Sunday can be traced back to the 16th Century, when it was the day for people to return to their mother church. The 4th Sunday of Lent was traditionally set aside for this occasion and over the years became a day when employees of landowners were allowed to take a day off to visit their families. It was a time for families to get together and maybe bake a small cake to take ‘home’ as a gift. Celebrating Mothering Sunday today is often marked by families attending a church service and the children giving their Mums a small bunch of flowers.

When we moved here nearly 48 years ago and I took on the Leadership of the then Sunday School, I introduced the idea of a children’s service at which all the Mums would receive a small gift. With a large school as it was then, this was no mean task, especially as we undertook to provide every Mum (or lady) in church with a floral buttonhole, and every Mum with a potted primrose.

Now in some families, this is the day when Mum gets breakfast in bed, maybe made by the children. In our family, I was always in the kitchen at 6.00am making up the buttonholes, putting a coloured paper napkin around the base of the flower pots. I don’t regret those times but oh how I envied the Mums who came into church with stories of luxurious mornings taking it easy. ‘One day’, I thought, ‘when I finish leading Sunday School I will enjoy that too’. Well those days arrived. Where were my children? Grown up and gone. Well not quite so drastically as that, but those days pass so quickly and now, as it has been for years, it is Stan who brings me the cup of tea in bed, but he does that most mornings anyway, so I won’t complain.

Other Notices

Rev John Good, minister of Ocean Church in Hamworthy, is running the London Marathon on Sunday 27th April to raise funds for the YMCA, which he also works for. If you want to sponsor John for the run, then you can go to this JustGiving page [https://www.justgiving.com/page/john-good-1723209662258?](https://www.justgiving.com/page/john-good-1723209662258?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3ugkIHPCVT_JkVvJ-cdhNfvOC6MxT0m6Tctm-ymTm_vYdYGh7nYczsS30_aem_K2nQ36zuyNa9zVMCr5zr_A)

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A Christian organisation called Kick, who deliver physical education, street dance, mentoring and chaplaincy in schools, are looking to start working in two local schools. They are seeking to recruit local Christians for two part-time vacancies. They offer training and access to resources for their prospective employees. If you or anyone you know might be interested in this, then details are on the noticeboard in the vestibule at church.

It is strange that even 20 years after my own mother died, I have to stop myself looking for a card with a suitable message inside. It is often the message that makes a greetings card special as it can be completely inappropriate. Mothering Sunday is a difficult day for some people. The memories of days gone by, may not be good ones or are reminders of tragic circumstances. My mum was nearly 95 when she died, but Stan's Mum was only 51 and he was only just 20 years old. For some you can wish them a fun filled day and dreams coming true but for others you know they will be unable to have fun. We are all different, our circumstances are different, some will be happy on Mothering Sunday others will be saddened once again. A favourite verse of mine is in **Isaiah 41:13** ***For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear I will help you.***

Barbara Goose



The Sower