



Link Up!

**“I will meditate on your works and
consider all your mighty deeds.”
Psalm 77 v 12**

Coming up in October:

On **Sunday 5th October**, Ken is away preaching at St George's C of E in Oakdale. We are holding one of our popular 'Songs of Praise' services. This might be a good service to invite a friend to join us at. Janet Matterface will be leading this, and the service will include our communion service.

On **Sunday 12th October** we will be celebrating our Harvest Thanksgiving. We will be collecting food items for Poole Foodbank and also taking an offering for the work of Operation Agri towards their 2025 appeal 'Trees, Bees and Seeds'. Envelopes will be available nearer the time and don't forget that, if you have a Gift Aid number with the Church, you can Gift Aid your donations to Operation Agri as well.

After the service we will have our Harvest Lunch and a Social Time. The list to sign up for your Ploughman's Lunch choice of either Cheese or Gammon (or some of both) is on the notice board in the entrance. We are asking for a donation towards the cost of the food, if you are able to afford this. £5 per head is a suggested amount.

On **Sunday 19th October** we are starting a new series on Sunday mornings looking at 'Women in the Bible'. We will be looking at the Old Testament character of Miriam.

On **Sunday 26th October** we will continue in the Old Testament with the characters of Deborah & Jael.

As our sermon series on the Holy Spirit comes to an end, I wonder which one of the themes most resonated with you? In our first sermon, Jesus introduced the Holy Spirit to his disciples as the Paraclete (the one who is alongside us), we then went on to consider how the Spirit broods, speaks, renews, empowers, and guides. We briefly saw him at work in the Old Testament, before looking at how he unites, is available for all, liberates, influences, equips and in our final sermon we considered his ministry of transformation.

Many of those themes may seem quite similar, with a bit of overlap, however I do think that there are important differences. It is clear that the Holy Spirit's ministries and roles are many and varied. I don't know about you but I hadn't really stopped to consider that the Holy Spirit is the primary way that God interacts with us and with the rest of creation. When a person says 'I felt God leading me...' they mean the Holy Spirit. When someone says 'I felt God present with me...', again, they mean the Holy Spirit.

For me, the two roles of the Spirit that stand out the most are that of Paraclete and that of transformation. Many times I have felt God's calming and reassuring presence with me, especially in difficult and challenging situations. I recently spoke to the contact group about my experiences of being at the births of my children; after each birth I felt a deep and profound sense of peace and love flowing from the Spirit of God. Do you sense the Spirit with you? Have you done in the past, and if so is it only in bad times or in good as well?

Coming up soon:

Our Annual Event to raise Christmas Food and running cost funds for Poole Foodbank will once again feature Poole Rock Choir. This will be from 4 – 5pm on Saturday 15th November. Details of how to book your seat will be advertised soon.

Other Notices:

Don't forget that we are now recording the Sunday sermons and putting these onto our website. So, if you are missing from church on a Sunday you can catch up online during the week. The web address is www.longfleetbaptistchurch.co.uk.

Also, you can go to our YouTube channel to listen to a series of podcasts where Ken discusses one or two of the bible study questions that the Monday and Wednesday Bible Studies look at with some of the folk who attend these groups. You can hear these by going to <https://www.youtube.com/@longfleetbaptistchurch6537>

Some people have immensely powerful testimonies of the transformation that the Spirit has worked in their lives; recovering drug addicts, former criminals, individuals who were abused or neglected. Mine isn't quite as dramatic as that, but I recognise, as do those who have known and loved me for a long time, changes that the Spirit has brought about in my personality. I am more courageous and confident in His strength. I am more caring and compassionate, and certainly less interested in material wealth and gain. What are the subtle, and perhaps not so subtle, changes that God, through the power of His Spirit has brought about in your character?

We mustn't forget either that these ministries of the Spirit don't just apply to us as individuals, but to our church, our families and friends, to our nation and indeed to the whole world. Wouldn't it be fantastic to see the transformational power of the Spirit at work in our government and in our nation?

I'm genuinely interested to know which of the ministries and roles of the Spirit most spoke to you. Perhaps there was something we didn't cover which you would've liked to have done. Feel free to drop me a text or email, or nab me over a brew after church one Sunday.

Rev Ken Adolphe

