



Link Up!

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.’ Matthew 5:9

Coming up in October:

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.

Looking forward to November:

On **Sunday 2nd November** which is All Saints Day we will be remembering those we have loved and lost. This service will include communion.

Then on **9th November** we will be holding our Remembrance Sunday service. This will start promptly at **10.45am**, so please be seated and ready for worship by then.

On **Sunday 16th November** we will return to our series on Old Testament Women by looking at Ruth and Naomi.

On **Sunday 23rd November** we will be looking at Esther.

Then on **Sunday 30th November** we will begin our Advent series with an E3 service in the hall, with the theme ‘APR’. Come prepared to participate in this like we did at Pentecost.

This service will be followed by our Church Members meeting.

I picked up the newspaper from the doormat on Friday and saw the above Bible verse was their headline. Apparently, President Trump quoted that passage in his social media post about the peace agreement in Gaza. I’m sure that we will all be thankful to God if that peace agreement brings an end to the suffering of all those affected by the conflict there.

The previous evening on the BBC news there was an item about the imminent announcement of this year’s recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and it piqued my interest to find out more about the prize, how it came into being, and how the recipient is decided. So, I dived into the internet to find out more.

I already knew that the prize was started because of the Swedish chemist and engineer and inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel, leaving his significant fortune for the foundation of five annual awards in the areas of Chemistry, Physics, Medicine, Literature and Peace. His interest in science inspired the science awards and he was also very keen on literature which inspired that award. His inspiration for the peace award came from his friendship with an Austrian pacifist, Bertha von Suttner, who wrote a book entitled ‘Lay down your arms’. The citation for the Peace Prize says ‘It is for those who have worked for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.’

Other Notices:

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. You can book your seat for this using this link <https://buytickets.at/longfleetbaptistchurch/1771729> or by going to the church website and clicking on the button on the Special Events page. If you haven't got internet access, please talk to Kim or Janet M about getting tickets. There are flyers advertising the event around the premises that you can use to invite family & friends to this. Admission is free but food from the list on our website and posters, which will be used for the Foodbank Christmas Hampers are requested. Alternatively, you can give money to support the running costs of the Foodbank. If you can help with serving refreshments, greeting people at the door, or clearing up at the end, please see Janet.

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>

The peace prize is decided by a five-person committee in Norway, while the other Nobel awards are controlled by Swedish committees. Nominations can be made by: - National Assemblies; State Governments; International Courts; University Lecturers; or past recipients. The identity of the nominators is kept secret for 50 years after the prize has been awarded. Prizes are announced in October and awards presented on 10th December which was Nobel's birthday. Of those who have received the Peace Prize since 1901, 78% have been Christians, although we might not be able to read too much into that statistic! You'll probably remember some of the names of past recipients: - Martin Luther King, Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Jimmy Carter, Barak Obama.

I doubt very much whether any of us is going to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. But Jesus did call his followers to be Peace Makers as the verse in Matthew 5 says. How can we do that I wondered? The dictionary defines a peacemaker as 'one who reconciles'. It has various descriptions of peace because that can mean different things in different contexts. It can be 'a state of tranquillity' 'a calmness of mind' 'a state of friendliness' or 'freedom from conflict or war'. While we aren't able to affect the big conflicts in the world, we can be those who try to demonstrate tranquillity, calmness and friendliness in our dealings with those we meet, as those are all Christlike attributes. We can also be the ones in our families, neighbourhoods, and friendship groups who try to reconcile those who are angry with each other. Proverbs 15: 1 says 'A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.'

Janet Matterface