



Link Up!

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31

Looking forward to November:

On Sunday 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. Ken is taking a few days leave so we will have Stephen Ashby leading our service.

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 as we did at Pentecost.

This service will be followed by our Church Members meeting. Please bring your lunch, as usual, and we will provide drinks. The agenda for the meeting will be sent out in advance of the meeting. Apologies for absence can be given to Janet or one of the other leaders.

I'm presently watching the television series 'Chernobyl' which is a dramatization of the 1986 catastrophe where one of the reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Ukraine (which was then part of the USSR) exploded. It is very challenging to watch, particularly the first two episodes where engineers and officials refuse to acknowledge the severity of the situation, thus endangering the lives of tens of thousands of people. Firefighters and emergency workers arrive on the scene, believing it to be simply a fire, unaware that the reactor is haemorrhaging radioactive material.

Two nuclear physicists realise just how bad the situation is and devise a way to deal with it. However, even once they prove that the reactor is open, they find themselves having to persuade politicians, whose vanity, pride and stupidity prevent a proper, timely reaction to the incident. One of the physicists is even arrested by the KGB for threatening to go public with her information. Thanks to the courage and persistence of the physicists a much worse disaster is averted; if the other three reactors had exploded, most of Ukraine would have become an uninhabitable, radioactive wasteland and nuclear fallout would have covered much of Europe.

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. If you are not able to attend the concert but would still like to donate to the Christmas Food collection, you can bring your donation to the church by Sunday 16th November.

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>

Standing up for what we know to be true can be very difficult. 'Whistleblowers' are often persecuted and shunned, simply for trying to call to attention serious problems in companies and organisations. As Christians we may sometimes feel powerless and voiceless in our society. When we see injustice and unfairness, the temptation may be to simply keep our heads down and stay out of harm's way. Proverbs 31:8&9 tells us to 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.' In 2 Samuel 12 the prophet Nathan is sent by God to rebuke King David for his behaviour regarding Bathsheba, and in a few weeks time we'll be looking at how Queen Esther spoke out on behalf of God's people 'For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?' (Esther 4:14)

Is there a situation God is calling you to speak his truth into? Is there a person or organisation that needs to hear that they are acting unjustly or unfairly? Is there a voiceless person who needs you to be their voice?

Rev Ken Adolphe