



Link Up!

**'Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me,
and I will give to each person according to what
they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the
First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.'**

Revelation 22: 12-13

Coming up in January:

We will be starting a series on Biblical Prophecy.

On **Sunday 11th January** we will be looking at chapter 3 of the book of Malachi

On **Sunday 18th January** we will be looking at chapter 37 of the book of Ezekiel.

And on **Sunday 25th January** we will be looking at chapter 2 of the book of Daniel.

Sunday 25th January is also the occasion of our **Annual service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** with St George's C of E and St Mary's R C Churches. This will be held at St Mary's R C this year at 3pm.

One of my favourite film series is the Back to the Future trilogy. In 1985, a teenage boy called Marty is friends with a mad scientist, 'Doc' Emmet Brown. At the beginning of the first film Marty accidentally travels back in time to 1955 where he inadvertently interferes with his parents' first date. In the second film, Doc and Marty travel forward to 2015, where they find flying cars propelled by fusion generators which cleanly burn household rubbish, flying skateboards ('hoverboards'), self-sizing and self-drying clothes, along with a myriad of other amazing technological advances.

Well, 2015 was over a decade ago and most of what Back to the Future predicted hasn't come true. I'm a big fan of Science Fiction and it seems to me that most Sci-Fi predictions fall into one of two camps – they either predict a utopia, where humanity has done away with war, eradicated poverty and illness, and everyone is happy. Or they predict a dystopia where earth is ravaged by war, disease and poverty are rife, and the distance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' is vast. As we enter 2026, it seems that the latter prediction is the one that is coming true.

Jesus may well have said things like 'You will hear of wars and rumours of wars' and 'You will always have the poor among you', but that doesn't mean that we as Christians should be satisfied with that, we shouldn't be content to just let the world slide into dystopia. As disciples of Christ, we are called to follow his example in bearing witness to and bringing to fruition the Kingdom of God in the here and now.

Other Notices:

On **Tuesday 20th January** from 7 to 9pm there will also be a Churches Together in Poole event at St Edwards School in Dale Valley Road entitled 'The Church in action across BCP'. There will be speakers about Responding to the Mental Health Crisis and Responding to the increase in Domestic Violence. We are asked to book seats, just for catering purposes and details of how to do that are on the poster in the foyer noticeboard.

Alissa Ford is starting her own cake making business and her price list and a selection of cakes she can offer are on the noticeboard in the lobby at church. Please complete the Order Form next to her list of cakes on the board including when you want your cakes by.

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 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 searching for 'Longfleet Baptist Church' on YouTube.

Whilst we believe the Advent promise that Christ will return one day to rule in righteousness and justice, that doesn't excuse us from battling against the evil prevalent in our society today. Evil, which manifests itself in many different ways; poverty, sickness, loneliness, violence, drugs, alcohol to name just a few. I don't expect us as individuals or as a church to take on all the evil in the world, but what, specifically is God calling us to deal with? Where in our community can we make a positive impact on the lives of people, who see no way out of dystopia?

In Back to the Future, when Marty travels to 1955 he makes some small changes to the way his parents meet, which he discovers has a huge effect on his life back in 1985. It doesn't take much effort on our part to make the world a better place, to live out God's Kingdom here in 2026.

Rev Ken Adolphe