



# Link Up!

**‘And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.’  
Colossians 3:17**

## For the rest of February:

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February we will be looking at New Testament prophecy with the messages to the 7 Churches in the book of Revelation.

Then on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, Ken will be on leave and Stephen Chaloner will be leading our service and looking at the Old Testament prophet Amos.

Finally on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, which is the first Sunday in Lent, we will be looking at Jesus temptation.

Ken will be on Annual Leave from Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Luke 2:41-52 records the story of the 12 year old Jesus going missing from his parents on a journey home from the Temple. You may think that Mary and Joseph must’ve been particularly irresponsible to have lost Jesus, however, it wouldn’t have been difficult for him to have slipped away unnoticed. Mary and Joseph travelled to Jerusalem and back in a large group of friends and family. The men travelled separately from the women and children, and they would only gather together at the end of each day. At 12 years old Jesus was neither a man nor a child; Joseph would have assumed he was travelling with Mary and the women, and Mary would have assumed that he was travelling with Joseph and the men.

You can just imagine their worry when they realised he was missing, and it took them three whole days to find him back at the Temple. Our English translation of Mary’s sentence ‘We have been anxiously searching for you’, completely fails to get across her true feelings. The word translated ‘anxious’ is ‘odunao’ and actually means ‘to experience intense emotional pain’ or ‘all consuming suffering’.

Jesus’ response to Mary is so unbelievably unthinking and just downright rude, ‘Why were you searching for me? Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?’

I wonder what you expect the next line of the Bible to read? Perhaps something like - ‘Then Joseph took hold of Jesus, gave him a clip round the ear and said “How dare you speak to your mother like that?”’

## Other Notices:

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.

We have received a new edition of the local Christian Trades Directory. Please take a copy from the vestibule or the coffee table in church. The Directory gives details of Christian Tradespeople who have been vouched for by a local church. We have used some of these tradespeople ourselves and if you want to check out some of them have a chat with John Matterface.

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 during the week. The web address is [www.longfleetbaptistchurch.co.uk](http://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>

I'm not sure why the NIV has Jesus saying 'Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?' The KJV has it better when it says 'Didn't you know I had to be about my Father's business?'

Even at the age of twelve, Jesus was putting his heavenly Father's business before anything else. We might be forgiven for believing that throughout his life Jesus found it easy to 'hate' his family and to make God's will his priority. However, it's important to realise that Jesus wasn't just some 'God robot', who was created without any thought or feeling. He was and is human, with human feelings and emotions.

Some Bible passages can make it seem that Jesus literally despised Mary and his siblings. Yet, in John 19, we learn that the very last thing that Jesus did before he died was to ensure that his mother was going to be looked after by a man Jesus could trust.

'He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." The he said to John "Here is your mother."' There we see the very human side of Jesus, there we get a glimpse of the love he had for Mary, and just how difficult it must have been for him throughout his life to have put God's Kingdom first.

When Jesus tells us to put God's business first, when he tells us not to look back, or to hate our family, he does it having first experienced these things himself. A good leader will never ask anyone to do something they are not prepared to do themselves. Our leader, our God, doesn't ask us to do things he hasn't done himself. He is a human being and struggled just as we do to put heavenly things first and earthly things second.

*Rev Ken Adolphe*