



Link Up!

‘Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven... But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built.’ 1 Kings 8:22,27

For the rest of February:

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

Looking forward to March:

On Sunday 1st March we will be returning to look at the book of Revelation. The service will also include our monthly communion service.

Then on Sunday 8th March we will be looking at the topic of ‘Us as prophets’.

Sunday 15th March will be a special Mothering Sunday service.

On Sunday 22nd March our Contact Group will be celebrating their anniversary.

And on Sunday 29th March which is Palm Sunday we will be joined by our friends from Parkstone Baptist Church.

As part of our now, very frequent trips up to the Lake District we often stop overnight. This is not only to break the journey but also an opportunity to visit somewhere we haven’t been before. Warwick Castle, Liverpool Docks, and the beautiful walled town of Chester to name but a few. Our latest visit took us to Iron Bridge. The town itself was not spectacular but that didn’t matter; it was the bridge we had come to see. It spans the River Severn and was built to meet the demands sparked from the Industrial Revolution. Goods needed to be transported across the river and boats were a precarious and relatively inefficient way of doing this. The flow could be strong after heavy rainfall and during dry periods there was often not enough depth for the boats to cross. So, in 1779, the construction of the bridge began and it was completed on New Year’s Day 1781. It was apparently the first bridge to be made from cast iron and although it has that rustic air about it there is an elegance you can’t help but admire. In one museum we visited, it was described by a writer of



the time as ‘an arch worthy of any cathedral.’ As well as being a remarkable feat of engineering it is also pleasing on the eye. But more importantly, it’s purpose to connect one side of the river to the other would have been a life-changer for the community at that time.

Also, on 22nd March we will hold our Annual General Church Members' Meeting after the service. This is an opportunity for an election of Deacons. Both Stephen and Kim Chaloner have come to the end of their current three-year term of service but are willing to serve again and eligible to be re-elected. Nomination papers are available from Janet Matterface and need to be returned to her by Sunday 1st March.

Other Notices:

The funeral of Mary Wills will take place at the church on Tuesday 10th March at 1pm followed by refreshments in the hall. Do continue to remember Alec, Mary's children Jill and Martyn and their families in prayer.

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 go to our YouTube channel to listen to a series of podcasts called 'Diving Deeper' 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.

In the Old Testament, the building of God's holy temple is lavishly set out with great attention given to every detail. The place where the presence of God resides. When it is complete, Solomon offers his prayer of dedication in which he acknowledges that if the heavens themselves cannot contain our God, even less can God be limited to this magnificent house he had been entrusted to build.

And as I look at the bridge over the River Severn, I'm reminded of Solomon's temple. Maybe that House of God could be looked upon as a bridge transporting worshippers into God's presence. And, for us today, I see Jesus - our bridge, not built by human hands but born of God. The hand reaching out to us from heaven.

Carri Hall

