



Link Up!

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Looking forward to March:

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

Then on Sunday 15th March we will be having 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.

Also, on 22nd March we will hold our Annual General Church Members’ Meeting after the service. As usual please bring your lunch with you and we will provide drinks. Nominations for the diaconate have been received for Kim Chaloner and Stephen Chaloner and their profiles will be sent out with the agenda and other correspondence by Sunday 8th March. Apologies for absence can be given to Janet or any of the other deacons before the meeting.

The first unit I was attached to as an Army Chaplain, was the Queen’s Dragoon Guards, whose nickname was the ‘Welsh Cavalry’ because they recruit primarily from Wales and the border counties. They are a light cavalry unit, equipped with lightly armoured reconnaissance vehicles. I was also briefly attached to the Royal Welsh, Wales’s infantry battalion.

The QDG had two really important celebrations during the year; one was the Waterloo dinner, where officers were invited into the Sergeant’s mess for dinner and games. The other was of course, St. David’s Day. This was a day of fun and games for the whole Regiment, and at some point would usually involve a leek eating contest, where soldiers from each squadron would have to eat a raw leek as quickly as possible. Yes, not very pleasant, and probably not good for your teeth either!

Not much is known about St. David, other that he was born in 500AD and was said to have lived to 100. He appears to have been an itinerant monk and bishop who wandered the hills and lanes of Wales preaching the Gospel and establishing monasteries. Legend has it that on one occasion, David was preaching before a large crowd. When people at the back complained that they couldn’t hear him, the ground underneath him rose up to form a hill so that all could see.

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 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. These can be found on YouTube. Just search for our channel: 'Longfleet Baptist Church'

Nobody seems to know why the leek has become a symbol of Wales. One story is that during a battle between the Welsh and English the combatants found themselves in a field of leeks, and St. David commanded the Welsh to place a leek in their hats so that they could recognise one another. More recently the daffodil has become a symbol of Wales, not surprising given they smell a bit nicer and look a bit more pleasant!

On his deathbed St. David is reputed to have said to his followers 'Be joyful and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things, the small things you've seen me doing. I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us.'

Sometimes, we can become so caught up in the big things in life that we forget about doing the little things. I spoke on Sunday about losing our vision of heaven, losing our Christian hope. The big things of the world obscure our view of the things that are really important. Sometimes we need the ground to rise up under Jesus so that he returns to become our primary focus. Whilst the big things of this world can cause us so much worry and anxiety, can block our view of heaven and Jesus, are there little things that we should be doing: caring for someone, making up a broken friendship, saying sorry, being kind, encouraging someone? It is often the little things that we do in life that can make the biggest difference.

Loving God, may we never forget that other people matter. Help us to find the time each day to do something little that could make a huge difference to somebody else. Amen.

Rev Ken Adolphe