



Link Up!

‘Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.’ Hebrews 12 v1-2

Coming up in May:

On Sunday 10th May we will be looking at Matthew 28: 16 – 20 The Great Commission.

On Sunday 17th May we will be looking at Luke 24 50 – 52 & Acts 1: 1 – 11 – The accounts of Jesus’ Ascension.

Then on Sunday 24th May we will have a Pentecost themed service.

And on Sunday 31st May we will be meeting with Parkstone Baptist Church at Parkstone for one of our Joint Services. The service there starts at 10.30am.

I’m sure you’ve said, or had said to you ‘Look where you’re going!’ Perhaps a child on a bike or scooter whizzed past a bit too close for comfort, or a distracted shopper nearly bumped into you with their trolley in a narrow supermarket aisle. ‘Look where you’re going!’

I recently went to Swinley Forest Mountain Bike Centre, where there are some very fast and very challenging downhill sections, with lots of twists and turns. I had to remind myself of something that I learnt during my motor-biking days; rather than looking where *you’re going*, you have to look where *you want to go*. I ensured that as I approached a corner, my head and eyes were already turned and I was looking out past the exit of the corner. As I found my rhythm this became more intuitive, and my body, and therefore my bike, automatically went where I was looking. ‘Look where you want to go.’

There’s a phenomenon in driving and riding which causes many accidents, called ‘target fixation’. A driver will see an obstacle in the road and then stare at it, unable to break sight with it, and because they go where they are looking, they hit the obstacle. This happens without the driver even realising it.

Other Notices:

Are you interested in praying for the town of Poole and the wider BCP area? There are two ways that you can do that with people from other churches in the town. Each Tuesday morning from 8 – 8.40am a group who pray for the Transformation of Poole meet on Zoom. If you would like to join them, even just occasionally, contact Janet M for the code to get into the meeting.

Also, if you can't make Tuesdays or can't do Zoom, then the group has produced a prayer booklet with suggestions of people, groups & places in Poole to pray for. This includes local schools, GP practices, BCP councillors for each ward, Christian organisations working in the town, and the churches in the town. These are divided into weekly topics. So, you could just pray for one of the topics each day if you feel led to do that. If you would like a copy of that booklet, then see Janet.

Although her trip to visit the Molima home in Malawi has been cancelled because of the current fuel crisis, Carri Hall is still selling her home-made cakes to raise funds for purchasing various items needed by the home. Donations should be left in the box on the table by her cakes.

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.

In Matthew 29 Jesus said 'You have heard it said "You shall not murder", and "anyone who murders will be subject to judgment". But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.' Later in the same chapter he said 'You have heard it said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.' I don't think that Jesus particularly meant that thinking sinful thoughts is just as bad as committing sinful actions; rather I think he was warning that if we are continually thinking sinfully, then eventually we will surrender to those thoughts and carry them out for real.

This fits in with the statement 'Look where you want to go.' We are going to a place where Jesus is ruler, and we must keep looking to that place, not getting distracted by obstacles. When we look at the world; news, entertainment, advertising, computer games, social media and so on, we suffer from spiritual 'target fixation' and we find ourselves heading towards those worldly obstacles. Instead of loving our enemy, we start believing that unprovoked war and violence are acceptable. Instead of storing up for ourselves treasures in heaven, we start believing that money and wealth and possessions are to be aspired to. Instead of putting the needs of others first, we start prioritising our own needs and wants. Instead of loving the Lord our God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, we reduce our faith to an hour or so on Sunday and a few rushed devotionals during the week.

Just as when I get on my Mountain Bike I have to consciously make an effort to 'look where I want to go', so I have to do the same thing in my walk with Jesus. Rather than unwittingly becoming target fixated on the obstacles of this world, I have to deliberately be target fixated upon Jesus and the place where he dwells - the place where I want to go.

Rev Ken Adolphe