



# Link Up!

**‘The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.’ Lamentations 3 v 25-26**

## For the rest of May:

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

Ken will be taking some annual leave between Monday 25th May and Friday 29th May.

And on Sunday 31st May we will be meeting with Parkstone Baptist Church at Parkstone for one of our Joint Services. The service at Parkstone starts at 10.30am and they meet in the church lounge which is along the corridor past the main church sanctuary.

## 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.

I used to be a dancer, and I practiced multiple times a week, in different disciplines (Latin American, Ballroom, Disco), taking part in competitions around Essex on a regular basis.

How did it happen?

My parents took my sister to dance classes (as part of her physical therapy suggested for her Special Needs), and I was a very confident little 3 year old, just happily copying all the teenagers learning to Jive, and just joined in. Today I say “I USED TO BE a dancer”. I can’t really say “I AM a dancer” as it’s been about 30 years since I last donned dancing shoes!

My relationship with God also started with copying the example of others. I was infant baptised by believing parents and God parents and I naturally followed the children around me into “Sunday School” – where there was singing, dancing and creativity, which captivated me and drew me into a knowledge of God; setting me on the pathway to my own decision to know and trust Him for myself.

The wonderful truth is that my relationship with God started *before* birth; we’re told ‘Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.’ (Psalm 139).

When I look back over my life and my relationship with God, it’s certainly gone through some changes. God has always been faithful; a sure and certain refuge in times of trouble and a source of joy at others. Still... sometimes.

Sometimes He seems distant. Sometimes my emotions are fickle. Sometimes I feel a failure to Him and to myself. I “used to be” a passionate believer in Jesus Christ and committed to being His “faithful soldier and servant” until the end of my days. And I reflect.. can I STILL call myself a “believer”, a “Christ-follower”, one who has set their heart on Him alone?

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 all 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.

Coming up in July are two events which we would like help with: -

The first is the Smile Lone Parent Fair which the Smile team is putting on at St James' C of E in Poole on Saturday 4th July from 11am – 2pm. It's an event offering a free, fun afternoon for the lone parents and their children. We have been asked to run two games for the event as a church group as a way of engaging with the Smile community. If you feel that you could help with our part in the event, then please see Janet.

Then on Saturday 18th July from 1 – 4pm we will be holding our own garden fair in the church garden, hall, church and lounge. We will need people to help set up the event in the morning. We will need cakes to be made for the refreshments. During the event there will be games and a bouncy castle to run, refreshments to be served, people needed to welcome those attending and give directions to various activities. A list will be up in the entrance at the beginning of June for you to offer help with any of these as well as a list for people to offer cakes. Publicity will be available for you to use to invite your friends, neighbours and family members as well.

I "used to" spend time most weeks singing worship songs with the door shut, just for Him to hear alone and be honoured by. Have I let other things take priority?

I "used to" pray more openly for healing in the name of Jesus. Have I let unbelief take hold of my heart?

And what about you? Is there anything you "used to" be or do, that seems to have been stolen out of your life these days?

There's a pattern in life where I go back to considering my first love. We are chosen and we are loved. We are convicted by the Holy Spirit and not condemned as we listen to our Lord's gentle rebuke to seek His kingdom first and think about where we might have become complacent... and by his grace, renew our commitment to serve Him.

On the day of my christening, my parents, God parents, and my church family prayed over me: "Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain His faithful soldier and servant until the end of your life".

A powerful prayer that I have prayed over other people's children many times during the years. It's a command given in love and a declaration of faith in God. It reminds me that with the help of the Spirit of Christ, we can turn and continue to resist the evil one by giving the glory to Jesus as we go, even though sometimes the spiritual fight is fierce.

If you feel like you "used to be" more than you are now for the Lord Jesus, then you're not alone, and you're loved as you are. It's just the time to have that honest conversation with Him about your own "sometimes" moments and where God wants you today. We all stand together under the banner of Christ Jesus, to continue to fight that good fight of faith in Him.

May God lead us on and cause us to reverence Him above all others. Amen.

*Kim Chaloner*