



# Link Up!

**‘Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Phillipians 4:8**

## Coming up in June

On **Sunday 7th June** we will be starting a series in the book of Daniel by looking at the Fiery Furnace in Daniel 3. The service will include our communion service.

On **Tuesday 9th June** the Contact Group are having a musical evening in the Church at 7pm. There is a warm welcome for anyone who isn't a member of the group to join them for this.

Then on **Sunday 14th June** we have a visit from Rod Ivell bringing us news from BMS World Mission

On **Sunday 21st June** we will look at Daniel 4 – Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation

And on **Sunday 28th June** we have a very special visit from this year's Baptist Union President – Rev'd Alex Afriyie.

Also, on 28th June we will be holding our Church Member's Meeting after the service. Please bring lunch and we will provide drinks.

On the last evening of our recent short trip to Teignmouth in Devon, we had a quintessentially English holiday experience. We strolled along the prom eating '99' ice creams, had a game of crazy golf in the park, and mooched along the pier before eating fish and chips on the seafront, whilst the Red Arrows did aerobatics overhead. I'm not sure you could get much more stereotypically English, the only thing missing was a stick of rock!

It may surprise you to learn that despite having spent 15 years in the British Army, I'm not particularly patriotic; in fact I've always found national pride to be quite a perplexing phenomenon. People often try to define 'Britishness' or 'Englishness', and like all societies we have good and bad qualities.

The ancient city of Philippi, although being located in Macedonia, in modern-day Greece, was a Roman Colony. This meant that it came under 'ius Italicum' – Italian Law. The city was treated by the Roman Empire as if it was actually in Italy, and was governed under Roman Law rather than local law. The inhabitants, many of whom were military veterans, were automatically Roman citizens, and they were very proud of their status which meant they could buy and sell property and were exempt from certain taxes.

## Other Notices:

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 and the church leadership are all keen for us to do this 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 at the doors and give directions to various activities. A list will be up in the entrance of the church 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.

The Apostle Paul was a Roman Citizen, and on several occasions in the Book of Acts we see him use this privilege to his advantage. Yet, in his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul subtly challenges their concept of 'citizenship'. In Philippians 1:27 he writes 'live as citizens (politeuesthe) of the gospel of Christ' (often blandly translated 'live in a manner worthy...') and again in 3:20 'Our citizenship (politeuma) is in heaven'. Paul's use of the word 'citizen' would not have been lost on the Christians in Philippi, who understood their city's position as a colony. The point Paul makes, which has been lost to us in time translation, is that we, the Christian Church, are a colony of Heaven, located outside Heaven, and our priority should be to live as good heavenly citizens.

As our government, schools and media wrestle with what it means to be a citizen of Britain, we should be wrestling with what it means to be a citizen of Heaven. Whilst there are British values which overlap with Heavenly values, there are many which stand in stark and direct contradiction. Paul encourages the Heavenly Citizens of Philipp to 'stand firm in the one Spirit, strive together as one for the faith of the gospel, and to not be frightened in any way by those who oppose you.'

He goes on to urge them to 'Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.'

What a place our nation would be if we Heavenly Citizens truly adopted those Heavenly Values.

*Rev Ken Adolphe*

We recently sent a donation of £350 to Ukraine Christian Ministries to provide pastoral retreats for pastors in Ukraine. We have received the following message from them in thanks from Ella Perseedoss (Director, Ukraine Christian Ministries):

*"Thank you so much, that is wonderful news! Longfleet Baptist will sponsor Vitaliy and Alina Lozovoy who lead the church in Borguslavets. You can read more about them in these two articles <https://www.ucm.org.uk/stories/blog-post-title-two-32jfa> and <https://www.ucm.org.uk/stories/15-12-2025-keeping-busy-in-borguslavets>. Vitaliy and Alina will be so blessed by your support."*