



Link Up!

**For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6**

Coming up in September:

On Sunday 6th September we will be looking at the Hot Topic of Immigration. The service will include communion.

Then on Sunday 13th September we will be looking at the topic of Same sex Marriage.

On Sunday 20th September we have a visit from Michael Cooper from Samaritan's Purse.

And on Sunday 27th September we will be looking at the topic of Sex.

Also, on Sunday 27th September we will be holding our Church Members' meeting after the morning service. Please bring your lunch with you and we will provide drinks. The agenda for the meeting will be sent to Members in advance of the meeting. Apologies for absence can be given to Janet or one of the other Deacons.

You may know that there are two different ways of determining the seasons of the year; the meteorological system and the astronomical system. The meteorological system divides the year neatly into four equal three-month blocks – autumn always begins on September 1st and ends on November 30th. The astronomical system isn't quite as neat, as it depends on the position of the earth relevant to the sun, and therefore changes from year to year. Autumn begins on the autumn equinox, one of two points in the year when the days and nights are equal in length; this year that is the 23rd September. Autumn ends on the winter solstice, the shortest day, which this year falls on the 21st December.

Earth experiences seasons due to being tilted on its axis. In spring and summer, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the sun; the sun gets higher in the sky, and we spend longer bathing in the sun's light. In autumn and winter, we tilt away from the sun; the sun is lower in the sky, and we spend less time bathing in the sun's light.

Other Notices:

Our Bible study groups will recommence on week commencing 7th September. These are in the Church Lounge on Monday evenings at 6pm and online via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. We welcome new participants to both of these. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, then see Ken or Janet for the meeting code.

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. You can hear these by going to <https://www.youtube.com/@longfleetbaptistchurch6537>

This year, after a particularly hot and dry summer we may well be grateful for the cooler days and the rain which autumn brings, however, I guarantee that by February after months of grey skies and frosty nights, we'll all be looking forward to the signs of spring; the snowdrops and daffodils which signify the return of the sun.

In the Christian year, autumn is often a time of reflection, of gratitude and of remembering. It's the season where we celebrate our Harvest Festival, mark Remembrance Sunday, and prepare for the birth and return of Christ during Advent. As we enter autumn, it's a time for us as Christians to take stock and to assess our priorities; not necessarily to slow down or lose momentum, but to consider 'where is God in my life? How has He been at work? Where do I fit into His plans?' It's a time to reflect on God's faithfulness to us, even in adversity, and to consider His greater purpose for our church family. As the Earth begins to tilt away from the sun and our hemisphere spends less time bathing in its light, we must discipline ourselves to ensure that we continue to be tilted towards the Son, and that we bathe in His light daily.

Rev Ken Adolphe