



Link Up!

‘All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.’ Psalm 22 v 27-28

Coming up in July

Sunday 7th July will be our Prayer & Communion Service when we will be looking at Ken’s three priorities for the church going forward. (See over for these). We will also be welcoming Bryan Cribb into Church Membership.

On Sunday 14th July, Ken will be taking a Sunday off and so Janet Matterface will be leading the service and preaching on Acts 9 – The Conversion of Saul.

On Sunday 21st July we will be looking at Acts 10 – Peter & Cornelius

And on Sunday 28th July, we will be looking at Acts 12 – Peter & the death of King Agrippa.

Pastoral Care Please do continue to remember those from our congregation who are unwell or confined to their homes. Perhaps, if you get the chance, you could give someone you haven’t seen for a while a phone call and find out how they are.

In 1 Samuel 8 the people of Israel demand a King ‘such as all the other nations have’. Up until this point, Israel was led by judges - individuals, both male and female, appointed by God to govern His people. When Samuel complains to God, His response is candid ‘it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods...’

God goes onto warn the people just what a king will do to them; taking their sons for the army, to work the land and make weapons; taking their daughters for his palace and taking their land, property and wealth for himself.

God’s plan for the world was never that humans would be governed by self-seeking authoritarians who would lord it over us. Rather, He intended that we would be led by humble, righteous men and women, chosen from among the normal, everyday people of the world. We see this in the selection of the 12 disciples in the Gospels and of the 7 deacons in Acts. Ordinary, humble, righteous people, equipped and gifted by God to *lead* rather than to *rule*.

With our own national General Election this Thursday 4th July it’s important for us as Christians to remember that ultimately we are governed by God. Our Baptist Declaration of Principle asserts ‘That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice.’ I don’t think it would be out of order for us to put the full stop after ‘all matters’!

Ken's Three Priorities for our Church

At our recent Church Members' meeting Ken introduced his three priorities for our church, which the deacons had suggested he write, to be included in the introductory document for the Church Constitution which is given to new members to help them know more about the church. He will be looking at these in our Prayer Service on 7th July, so to prepare everyone for that, they are: -

Pastoral

'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' (Jn 13:35)

We will strive to take care of the Spiritual, Physical and Emotional needs of each other and those on the periphery of the church.

Spiritual

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' (Mt 22:37)

We will strive to make time as individuals and as a community to pray, study God's word and to respond to the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Missional

'Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...' (Mt 28:19)

We will strive to make known the gracious love of God through our words and actions, to the community of Poole and beyond.

The following 26 nations all have National Governmental elections still to come this year - Iran, France, Rwanda, Syria, Venezuela, Sint Maarten, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Jordan, Romania, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Austria, Mozambique, Lithuania, Moldova, Georgia, Uruguay, The United States of America, Palau, Somaliland, Switzerland, Namibia, Mauritius, Ghana and South Sudan.

We can but hope and pray that God appoints humble, righteous leaders who genuinely seek to serve their countries and all people, not only in the UK but in all nations around the world.

Despite all that goes on the world we hold onto the great Christian truth as articulated by John in Revelation - 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.' (Rev 21:3)

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.' (Rev 22:12&13)

Rev Ken Adolphe



'Parking' by our resident artist Alec Wills