

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 21st January 2018

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our morning worship which is being led by Mr Brian Powell. The Stewards are Grahame Downer, David Wild and Becky Gransden. Thank you to our organist, Andrew Jones, and to Becky Gransden for the flowers. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the service, so please do stay for a coffee and a chat.

Today's readings are: Jonah 3:1-5 and verse 10, and Mark 1:14-20

Events Sunday 21st to 28th January

Sunday	4.00 pm	United Service for week of prayer for Christian unity (see below)
	6.30 pm	House group, The Manse
Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddlers' Group
	2.30 pm	Circuit meeting of Methodist Women in Britain, Verwood
Tuesday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
	7.00 pm	Bible Study, The Manse
Friday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
	7.00 pm	Close Encounters Youth Club (ages 8 – 12 years)
Sunday	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Mr Grahame Downer (Bible Sunday)

Bible in One Year: 22nd January – 28th January: Exodus 4 -20 and Matthew 24:22 – ch.18

Diary Dates:

Thursday 1st February 2018	Church Council Meeting, 7.00 pm (see below)
Friday 2 nd March	Women's World Day of Prayer at Blandford Methodist, 2.00 pm (see below)
Sunday 25 th March	Palm Sunday and Church Anniversary
Thursday 29 th March	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service, 7.30 pm
Saturday 14 th April 2018	Church Away Day, Holtwood Methodist Church

United Service for week of prayer for Christian unity: Today at 4.00 pm there is a united service at Blandford Parish Church, marking the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. I am participating in the service and it would be good if members of our church were able to support this opportunity to worship together with other Christians in Blandford. My apologies for the short notice about this service.

Alison McMillan

Bible Sunday, 28th January: In a sense every Sunday is "Bible Sunday", but we shall be remembering this in a particular way on 28th January, when I shall be preaching. We shall be thinking about the Book which means so much to Christian believers; and also, we shall remember the work of the Bible Society, which continues to translate the Bible into many languages, and to distribute it as widely as possible. The Society has provided envelopes which will enable us to contribute to its work, on the front of which is the message, 'Together we can do something amazing: bring the Bible to life for those who need it most'. Envelopes for donations are in the Narthex. These will be collected in on Sunday 28th and donations sent to the Bible Society shortly afterwards.

Grahame Downer

Church Council Meeting: as mentioned in the diary dates, the next Church Council Meeting will be held in the church at 7.00 pm on Thursday 1st February and all are invited to attend. The main focus of this meeting will be to discuss the vision, aims and ethos statement of the church, the lettings policy, the safeguarding policy and the Away Day.

Away Day - Saturday 14th April: This will be a major item on our Church Council agenda on 1st February, following which more information will be coming your way. Do get this date in your diaries - you don't want to miss out on this great day together. It will be from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, lunch will be provided and there will be activities for children. *Alison McMillan*

Women's World Day of Prayer: 'All God's Creation is Very Good!' The interdenominational movement of the Women's World Day of prayer invites everyone to attend one of over 5,000 services being held on Friday 2nd March with the title 'All God's Creation is Very Good!' We will join an estimated 3 million people around the world that day in a service which has been written this year by the women of Suriname in South America.

Starting in Samoa as the sun rises, and ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa, the service will have been translated into more than 95 languages and 1000 dialects as we are reminded that we have responsibilities in caring for this wonderful world we live in. With its vast rainforest and wealth of resources, Suriname asks us to pray for conservation and the protection of wildlife, through an awareness of pollution, misuse and abuse, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future.

This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but for everyone who cares about our world and those who live in it. This year, the service in Blandford will be held in our church on Friday 2nd March at 2.00 pm. For further information, please speak to Becky Gransden.

Prayer for the week:

Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

Lord, please open our eyes to the needs of others, open our hearts to those people and open our hands so we can provide help in the time of need.

Minister: Rev Gwyneth Owen – Telephone Number 01202 883461

Deacon: Alison McMillan – Telephone Number 01258 456525