

## Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our morning worship on Bible Sunday which is being led by Mr Grahame Downer. The Stewards are Tina Wise, Jean Peck and Stephanie Bishop. Thank you to our organist, Angela Walden, for stepping in at the last moment to play for us. Also, thank you to Rona Downes for doing the refreshments which will be served in the hall after the service, so please do stay for a coffee and a chat.

**Today's readings are:** Jeremiah 36:1-14, 21-23, 27-28 and 32, Luke 4:14-21 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17

### Events Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February

Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddlers' Group
Tuesday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
	7.00 pm	Church Council Meeting (see below)
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 Deacon Alison McMillan (All Age Service)

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**Bible in One Year:** 29<sup>th</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> February: Exodus 21 – 35 and Matthew 19 - 22

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### **Diary Dates:**

Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Lent Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Women's World Day of Prayer at Blandford Methodist, 2.00 pm (see below)
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Church Anniversary (note revised date from last week's Link)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service, 7.30 pm
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Church Away Day, Holtwood Methodist Church

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**Bible Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January:** Today we will be remembering the Bible Society, which translates the Bible into many languages, and distributes it as widely as possible. The Society has provided envelopes for donations in order that their important work can be continued. If you were unable to take an envelope last Sunday, there will be some available today in the Narthex. Please either put your envelopes in the morning collection or hand it to 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 this Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Lent Bible Studies:** We will be having three Bible studies during Lent – 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. All at the manse from 7.00 pm. These dates replace those that have been previously circulated.

*Alison*

*McMillan*

**Good Friday:** This year we are going to once again have an ecumenical witness on Good Friday. This is going to be a walk, stopping at the churches in Blandford for reflective prayer and worship. The details are still being finalised but we will begin at 10.00 am (location tbc) and finish at the Parish Church giving out hot cross buns as has been done in previous years. Watch this space for more details in the coming weeks.

*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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2.00 pm. For further information, please speak to Becky Grandsen.

**Lunch at Colehill Methodist Church:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. Proceeds will go to Future Pillars, Zambia. Further details of the lunch can be found on the poster on the hall wall. These lunches will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in each month at Colehill Methodist Church, with all proceeds going to Future Pillars, Zambia.

**Faith in Questions:** A new one act play called *Counting the Clouds* by Nigel Forde will be performed and then followed by conversation with leading scientists. The venue is Verwood Methodist Church on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30 pm. Entry **FREE**. For further information, please see the poster in The Narthex.

**Blandford Community Promotions** in association with The Comedy Agency presents 'Jo Enright@the Comedy Exchange' on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm. This is an evening of comedy to support Blandford Food Bank. Further information can be found on the poster on the hall wall.

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**Prayer for the week:**

**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1**

*God is always able and available to help us.*

**Minister:** Rev Gwyneth Owen – Telephone Number 01202 883461

**Deacon:** Alison McMillan – Telephone Number 01258 456525