

## Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our morning worship which is being led by Mr Eric Brown. The Stewards are Tina Wise, John Cornish and David Wild. Thank you to Christine Downer 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:** Mark 9:2-9, 2 Kings 2:1-12 and 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

### Events Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February

Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddlers' Group
Tuesday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Friday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
	7.00 pm	Close Encounters Youth Club (ages 8 – 12 years)
Sunday	10.45 am	Morning worship led Miss Elizabeth Ward

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**Bible in One Year:** 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February: Leviticus 13 -22 and Matthew 26:26 – Matthew 28

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### **Diary Dates:**

Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Lent Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	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
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Lent Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
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	Church Away Day, Holtwood Methodist Church

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**Mission in Britain Boxes:** Please could all Mission in Britain boxes be given to Joyce Wild before the end of February for their half yearly empty. Thank you. *Joyce Wild*

**Open Morning, Blandford Food Bank:** This is an open invitation to anyone who is interested in the work of the food bank here at Blandford to come to our Open Morning on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. There will be a short presentation at 10.20 am about the food bank and there will also be an opportunity to take a tour of the food bank (which, as many of you know, is situated to the right hand side of our church). Last year, the food bank helped local people (adults and children) with over 900 food parcels, and there is a continuing need for this service to continue. Also, many people need help with debt advice and this is a service that is provided by the food bank. If you feel that you would like to know more about the food bank, please come along on the 28<sup>th</sup> – refreshments are available! *Margaret and John Cornish*

**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 Gransden.

**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 21st February at 7.30 pm. Entry **FREE**. For further information, please see the poster in The Narthex.

**Action for Children Count Your Blessings** for the Lent Appeal for 2018 can be found in the Narthex. Joyce will collect all donations on April 1st and 8th.

*Joyce Wild*

**Dementia friendly services:** two dementia friendly services are being planned this year on 29<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00 pm at the Parish Church in Blandford.

Last year we ran three services and the feedback was positive, especially about the refreshments time which offers a good time for people to talk openly about their experiences, either as a person with dementia or as a carer. The service is just 20 minutes long and is accessible for people with dementia and also those with learning needs or mental health issues.

*Anita Roberts, the Blandford*

*Dementia Action Alliance*

**Bibles – free on a first come, first served basis:** I was reminded when I looked in at the church this week that last Sunday I left three "bibles" in the narthex, left over from a stall at a Village Hall Coffee Morning the day before. One is a rather handsome "King James" bible, the others little Gideon volumes (NIV) of the New Testament and Psalms. All brand new, I think. If you would like one of these bibles, please help yourself on a "first come, first served" basis at no charge.

*Grahame Downer*

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**Prayer for the week:**

**Do not worry about tomorrow. Matthew 6:34**

*Faithful Father, thank You for knowing exactly what we need before we even ask.*

*Help us to trust You for our daily needs.*

**God supplies all our needs – one day at a time.**

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

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