

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 18th February

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our morning worship which is being led by Miss Elizabeth Ward. The Stewards are John Cornish, Jean Peck and David Wild. Thank you to our organist, Andrew Jones, and to Tina Wise 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 reading is: Mark Chapter 1 verses 9 - 15

Events Sunday 18th to 25th February

Sunday	6.30 pm	House Group, The Manse
Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddlers' Group
Tuesday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
	7.00 pm	Lent 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 followed by Holy Communion led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen and Deacon Alison McMillan

Bible in One Year: 19th – 25th February: Leviticus 23 – Numbers 14 and Mark 1 - 5

Diary Dates:

Thursday 1 st March	Lent Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Friday 2 nd March	Women's World Day of Prayer at Blandford Methodist, 2.00 pm (see below)
Sunday 18 th March	Church Anniversary
Thursday 22 nd March	Lent Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Monday 26 th March	Holy Week film (see below for further details)
Sunday 25 th March	Palm Sunday
Thursday 29 th March	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service, 7.30 pm
Saturday 14 th April	Church Away Day, Holtwood Methodist Church

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 28th 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 28th – 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 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.

Quiz night at Verwood: On Saturday 10th March (start time tbc) Verwood is hosting a quiz evening. It costs £6 per person. Would anyone else like to join us? If so, please speak to me. *Joyce Wild*

Holy Week Film: I will be showing the film, "**I Daniel Blake**" on Monday 26th March at 7.00 pm. Daniel Blake (Dave Johns) is a 59-year-old widowed carpenter who must rely on welfare after a recent heart attack leaves him unable to work. Despite his doctor's diagnosis, British authorities deny Blake's benefits and tell him to return to his job. As Daniel navigates his way through an agonising appeal process, he begins to develop a strong bond with a destitute, single mother (Hayley Squires) who's struggling to take care of her two children.

This is a film that deals with issues of justice, human dignity and integrity - themes that are central to the week leading up to Christ's death.

Venue: I can't show the film in the church because of other bookings. Please sign the form in the Narthex if you plan to attend and I will let you know where we will meet. *Gwyneth Owen*

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 29th April and 30th 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, Blandford Dementia Action Alliance*

Bibles – free on a first come, first served basis: A couple of weeks' ago, I left three "bibles" in the narthex, left over from a stall at a Village Hall Coffee Morning. 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

Prayer for the week:

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence. Hebrews 4;16

*Although we cannot anticipate the trials of life, we can pray to our Father
who fully understands what we face.*

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