

## Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our morning worship followed by Holy Communion which is being led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen and Deacon Alison McMillan. The Stewards are Barry Gransden, Margaret and Alan Dymond and Jean Peck. Thank you to Joyce Wild for the flowers. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the service, so please do stay for coffee and a chat.

**Today's reading is:** Mark 8:31-38

### Events Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March

Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddlers' Group
Tuesday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Wednesday	10.00 am	Open Morning, Food Bank (see below)
Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
	7.00 pm	Lent Bible Study, The Manse
Friday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer (see below)
	7.00 pm	Close Encounters Youth Club (ages 8 – 12 years)
Sunday	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Reverend Sue Litchfield
	6.30 pm	House Group, The Manse

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**Bible in One Year:** 26<sup>th</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> March: Numbers 15 – 33 and Mark 6 – 9:29

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### **Diary Dates:**

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Stewards' meeting, 3.30 pm
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
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Week film (see below for further details)
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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**Di Browning:** As many of you will be aware, Di Browning is retiring at Easter. Di has been a faithful Pastoral Visitor to members of Blandford Methodist Church for a number of years as well as helping at various events we have hosted. It would be nice if, on 18<sup>th</sup> March (Church Anniversary), we could give Di a farewell thank you gift. If you wish to contribute to this gift please see Joyce before or after the service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> March. There will also be a card for everyone to sign nearer the time.  
*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 Wednesday – 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 and we do hope you will be able to join in this service of celebration. **Although this is called the Women's World Day of Prayer, it is open to men as well as women and we look forward to welcome as many men as possible.** Refreshments will be served in the hall following the service.

**Holtwood Sisterhood's 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary:** I have received an invitation from the members of Holtwood Sisterhood to attend their forthcoming 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebrations. I am afraid I am unable to attend as I shall still be at work, but the invitation was extended to four others from our congregation.

I have emailed Brenda Burt with my apologies, but if any others from Blandford would like to attend the event, please could you let either John Cornish, Barry Gransden or Grahame Downer know. It takes place on Wednesday 7th March at 3.00 pm at Holtwood Church. The service is followed by afternoon tea so Brenda would like to know for catering purposes how many will be going. *Joyce Wild*

**Quiz night at Verwood:** On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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*

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### **Prayer for the week:**

**Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11**

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Your wonderful love for me.*

*I pray that others may see Your love in my words and actions today.*

**God's love is meant to be shared.**

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

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