

## Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Due to the recent bad weather, the decision was taken to cancel the morning service at church on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Thanks to Reverend Sue Litchfield for all her preparation for the service and to Deacon Alison McMillan for agreeing to stand in for Sue in the event that she was unable to travel to Blandford. We look forward to seeing everyone next week for worship on Mothering Sunday.

**Today's readings are:** Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John's Gospel 2:13-22

### Events Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March

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
	3.30 pm	Stewards' meeting
Friday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
	1.30 pm	Away Day planning meeting
	7.00 pm	Close Encounters Youth Club (ages 8 – 12 years)
Sunday	10.45 am	All age morning worship led by Deacon Alison McMillan

**Bible in One Year:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March: Numbers 34 – Deuteronomy 16 and Mark 9:30 – Mark 12

### **Diary Dates:**

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

**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:** Responding to need in Blandford. On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon the Blandford Food Bank held its Annual Open Day. This was attended by over fifty people who came along to see how we work and to find out how the vulnerable can be helped by many local organisations. These agencies had set up their stalls with information to explain their own particular way of supporting the vulnerable people in Blandford. Many of the clergy from our local Churches came along, as did a small group of pupils from The Blandford School. Peter Clarke, Mayor of Blandford, also came to the event.

Alistair Doxat-Purser (CEO of Faithworks) opened the event: then followed a few presentations, one from Gail Del Pinto who runs the Food Bank, a talk on Universal Credit presented by Alison Taylor from Sovereign Housing Association and a short talk from me explaining how Community Money Advice operates. This was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to network and get to know one another and learn how best to respond to the desperate needs of people in our area. There was also an opportunity for our guests to tour the Food Bank and see what goes on behind the scenes. At the end of the session, Forum Focus presented a £500 cheque to Faithworks, which was gratefully received.

*John Cornish*

**Women's World Day of Prayer:** Due to the adverse weather conditions and taking into consideration the safety of those who had planned to attend, it was decided to cancel the 'Women's World Day of Prayer' service which was due to be held last Friday. 'All God's Creation is Very Good' was the theme and it was disappointing not to have the opportunity to explore this issue with friends from our other local churches in Blandford. Several of our own congregation were going to take a lead role in the service and Becky would like to thank them for their commitment and enthusiasm in the preparation which took place. However, Gwyneth is planning to take some of the reflections of the theme and use them as the basis for our Palm Sunday All Age Service on March 25th. We do hope that you can share in this very special service and encourage others to join you.

*Becky Gransden*

**Holtwood Sisterhood's 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary:** We have received an invitation from the members of Holtwood Sisterhood to attend their forthcoming 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary celebrations on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 pm at Holtwood Church. The service is followed by afternoon tea. If anyone would like to attend, please can they let John Cornish know today so that he can inform Holtwood for catering purposes.

**Lunch at Colehill Methodist Church:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm. Proceeds will go to Future Pillars, Zambia. Further details of the lunch can be found on the poster on the hall wall. These lunches take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in each month at Colehill Methodist Church, with all proceeds going to Future Pillars, Zambia.

**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*

**Prayer for the week:**

Thank you, Lord, for speaking to me through Your Word.  
Help me to tune my ears to Your voice and obey.

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

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