

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

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our All Age morning worship which is being led by Deacon Alison McMillan. The Stewards are Barry Gransden and Alan and Margaret Dymond. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the service, so please do stay for coffee and a chat. (A copy of the front page of last week's Sunday Link is attached to this week's Link).

**Today's readings are:** The story of Hannah's promise and the story of baby Moses

### **Events Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March**

|          |          |   |
|----------|----------|---|
| 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 and Church Anniversary led by Reverend John Carne |
|          | 6.30 pm  | House Group, The Manse  |

**Bible in One Year:** 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March: Deuteronomy 17 – 34 and Mark 13 - 15

### **Diary Dates:**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 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 <a href="#">update on venue</a> ) |
| 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                      |

### **EASTER UPDATE:**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Palm Sunday:** This service will be taken by Gwyneth who will incorporate some of the themes and reflections from the Women's World Day of Prayer service which, unfortunately, had to be cancelled due to the bad weather. (See below for further article relating to the Women's World Day of Prayer).

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm, Holy Week Film:** As mentioned in previous issues of The Link, I will be showing the film, "**I Daniel Blake**". 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.

The film will be held at Barry and Becky Gransden's home

*Gwyneth Owen*

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Maundy Thursday:** A service of Holy Communion and reflection will be held in our church at 7.30 pm on Maundy Thursday to prepare us for the following days of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Some of our friends from the URC will be joining us and we hope many of you will be able to come and share in this service as well.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Good Friday:** There will be a united walk of witness between all the churches in Blandford on Good Friday. This will start at the Evangelical Church at 10.00 am, then proceed to the Catholic Church, the URC, then to the Methodist Church (at approximately 11.00 am) and finish at the Parish Church. At each church there will be a short time for readings or reflections. If you would like to take part in the walk, but feel that the whole walk would not be viable for you, you are more than welcome to join the group at any of the churches mentioned. Please have a word with Alison for more information about timings etc.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Easter Sunday:**

**6.15 am:** There will be a Sunrise Service to celebrate the risen Christ which will be held at the Milldown. Please meet on the field near the car park. Alison will be able to give you further details.

**11.00 am:** This will be a Service of Celebration combined with Holy Communion and will be taken by both Gwyneth and Alison. Please note the later start to the service: because of the later start, refreshments will be served before the service from 10.15 am. There will be no refreshments after the service.

**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, then your last opportunity will be today, so please see Joyce before or after the service. There will also be a card for everyone to sign.

*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 on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. '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*

**Prayer for the week:**

Lord, use me today to bring someone hope, a lighter burden, encouragement.  
*Compassion is understanding the troubles of others and reaching out.*

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

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