

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 25th March

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our Palm Sunday All Age morning worship which is being led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen. The Stewards are Grahame Downer, David Wild and Stephanie Bishop. Thank you to our organist, Andrew Jones, and thank you to Becky Gransden 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 11:1-11

Events Sunday 25th March to 1st April

Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddlers' Group
	7.00 pm	Film "I Daniel Blake"
Tuesday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Maundy Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service of Reflection and Holy Communion
Good Friday	10.00 am	United Walk of Witness (see below for further details) NO Lunch Club (and NO Lunch Club on Tuesday 3 rd April)
Easter Sunday	10.15 am	Easter Sunday refreshments followed by morning service
	11.00 am	Easter Sunday morning worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen and Deacon Alison McMillan

Bible in One Year: 26th March to 1st April: Joshua 22 – Judges 15 and Luke 3 - 6

Diary Dates:

Saturday 14th April

Church Away Day, Holtwood Methodist Church

Could all **Count Your Blessing money** be given to Joyce on Easter Sunday. Thank You

Easter Offering: Every Easter, the Methodist Church in Britain invites donations to the World Mission Fund through Easter Offering envelopes. Please use the envelopes handed out today as this will enable the reclaim of tax through Gift Aid where possible. Your giving to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund helps support mission partners working overseas, nationals in mission appointments and overseas students in ministry training. It also allows the Church to make grants to Partner Churches for special projects.

EASTER UPDATE:

Monday 26th March, 7.00pm, Holy Week Film:

Where? Home of Barry and Becky

What? I Daniel Blake

Winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, *I Daniel Blake* is a gripping, human tale about the impact one man can make. Gruff but goodhearted, Daniel Blake (Dave Johns) is a man out of time: a widowed woodworker who's never owned a computer, he lives according to his own common sense moral code. But after a heart attack leaves him unable to work and the state welfare system fails him, the stubbornly self-reliant Daniel must stand up and fight for his dignity,

leading a one-man crusade for compassion that will transform the lives of a struggling single mother (Hayley Squires) and her two children.

This film gives insights into the work done at our church through the Food Bank and working with those who are in debt. It should make you angry!

Gwyneth Owen

Thursday 29th 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 30th 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 1st April, Easter Sunday:

6.30 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: Unfortunately, because last Sunday's service was cancelled due to the bad weather, we have had to arrange another date for Di Browning to come so that we can wish her well in her retirement. Di has said she is planning to come to the service on Sunday 8th April and will be bringing her mother along as well.

Joyce Wild

Dr Geoffrey Tapper: The death was announced recently of Dr Geoffrey Tapper, at the age of 86. Geoffrey was a GP based in Shaftesbury; he was very active in politics, twice as a parliamentary candidate and for some years as Chairman of Dorset County Council; and he was a local preacher in the North Dorset Circuit for over 50 years. He was a persuasive man, and at one time I found myself delivering leaflets for him in places off the beaten track such as Fiddleford, Ibberton and Belchalwell! He will be mourned by his patients, by those he served in the community, and not least by those who knew him in the Methodist Church.

Grahame

Downer

Methodist Women in Britain (Southampton District): The spring Roadshows for the MWIB have now been arranged, and our most local roadshow will take place at Dorchester on Saturday 14th April. Unfortunately, this is the same date as our Away Day. However, other roadshows have been arranged at Reading and Shirrell Heath in May should anyone wish to attend. Further details can be found on the poster in the Hall.

Looking to the future, the date for **the Sharing Day** is Thursday 5th July at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church, when Sister Imelda Poole will share her experiences with our Albania Hope partnership.

The **Celebration Day** is on Thursday 11th October. Sandra Goodwin, the MWiB Connexional president, will speak to us. The venue is still to be arranged. Posters and more information will follow.

Food Bank fund raiser: Blandford Community Promotions is putting on a fund raiser for the Food Bank, for which we are absolutely thrilled! It is an evening of comedy with Jo Enright at the Corn Exchange, Market Square, Blandford on 13th April at 7.30 pm. As with any fund raiser, funds can only be raised if there are sufficient people attending to cover the costs and then a little left over to go to the Food Bank funds. Jo Enright is hilariously funny; you can see her on Youtube to give you a flavour of her comedic work. Tickets are available on the door: £15.00 for a premium ticket and £11.00 for a standard ticket. Please come with family and friends and enjoy a wonderful evening listening to an artist at work here in Blandford. Further details can be found on the poster in the hall.

John Cornish

Prayer for the week:

They . . . twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. Matthew 27:28-29
*Lord Jesus Christ, my heart hurts to think of all the pain and suffering You endured for me.
Thank You for Your gift of love that sets me free.*

The crown of thorns has become a crown of life.

Minister: Rev Gwyneth Owen – Telephone Number 01202 883461

Deacon: Alison McMillan – Telephone Number 01258 456525