

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 15th April

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our morning worship which is being led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen. The Stewards are Barry Gransden and Alan and Margaret Dymond. Thank you to Tina Wise for the flowers. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the service, so please do stay for coffee and a chat.

Today's readings are: John 20:19-31 and Luke 24:36b-48

Events Sunday 15th to 22nd April

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 led by Mr Tony Coghlan

Bible in One Year: 16th – 22nd April: 1 Samuel 30 – 2 Samuel 15 and Luke 13:23 – Luke 17

Diary Dates:

Thursday 26 th April	Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Sunday 29 th April	Dementia friendly service, Parish Church, 3.00 pm
Monday 7 th May	Blandford Georgian Fayre: church open for refreshments, book stall and quiet contemplation
Thursday 10 th May	Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Sunday 20 th May	Pentecost Ecumenical Service, URC, 9.00 am

Blandford Methodists at Holtwood: Yesterday, 20 of us went to Holtwood for the day and spent the day at the Methodist church there. After refreshments and fun games, we spent time sharing ideas about what we do well at our church and what we think we could do better. We then looked at the four values which underpin Blandford Methodist: giving, challenging, embracing and caring. We also spent time in a Bible study. We decided that we want to:

- Pray together
- Find out more why the Bible is relevant to us
- Have social events where we can have fun
- Work out how to care for lonely people
- Have more days together like this one.

We ate a lovely lunch which was kindly prepared by Holtwood. After lunch, some played games, some went for a walk in beautiful sunshine and, after enjoying afternoon tea, we finished the afternoon with a time of worship. We used our talents to the full by forming a music group, and having an opportunity of praying in a prayer chain. Ask around to see who was there - they will tell you more! Pictures of the Away Day can be found on the circuit website: www.candwmc.org.uk

Gwyneth Owen / Alison

Georgian Fayre, May 7th: the church will be open from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm selling coffee, tea, squash, homemade cakes and filled rolls. A big thank you to those who have already offered to help. There will be a sheet in the Narthex for you to indicate what times you are available. On that same sheet, if you are able to bake a cake or two, please could you write down what they will be so that we can ensure we have a variety of cakes to offer those using our premises.

There will also be a book stall, so Alan Dymond has appealed for books which will be gratefully received.

Joyce Wild

Methodist Women in Britain: The local Easter Offering Service is prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund. It is being held at Verwood Methodist Church on 6th May at 6.00 pm. Blandford Methodist Church has been asked if a member of our congregation could read the opening prayer of adoration at the start of the service. If there is anyone who would like to participate and read this short prayer, please have a word with Becky Gransden who has a copy of the service.

Becky Gransden

Pentecost Ecumenical Service: There will be an ecumenical service on Pentecost Sunday, 20th May at 9.00 am at the URC. This will be a great time of worship together with other Christians in Blandford. Do put the date and time in your diaries now. We will then have our normal service at 10.45 am here at the Methodist Church. Please speak to Alison for more information.

Prayer walk: Blandford Churches Together will be holding a prayer walk on Wednesday 2nd May, starting at the Evangelical Church at 7.30 pm. Further information can be obtained from Alison.

'The Bible in 55 minutes': A whistle-stop tour with Peter Aston (singer/songwriter/guitarist) and Becky Neale (flautist) at Verwood United Reformed Church, Saturday 28th April, 7.30 pm. Further information can be seen on the poster in the hall.

Joyce Wild

Close Encounters: The children at Close Encounters raised £63 and paid for a toilet twinning with the Democratic Republic of Congo. The certificate showing this can be found on the wall between the disable and ladies toilets.

Joyce Wild

Commemorative plaque: A plaque in the Narthex at the back of the church commemorates the re-dedication of our premises after "extensive refurbishment" by Reverend Nigel Collinson, then the Chair of the Southampton District, at the service on 12th April (Easter Sunday) 1998. This Thursday was the 20th anniversary of this significant event in the life of our Church. We can be thankful that under God's hand worship has been able to continue during the last 20 years, and that other activities have also flourished: examples of these are to be seen in the April issue of "Forum Focus" - the Blandford Food Bank (p26) and the Lunch Club (p35).

Grahame

Downer

Prayer for the week:

*Father, as we receive Your love and forgiveness, may we also
extend it to others in Your name.*

God's love for us is undeserved yet unchanging.

Minister: Rev Gwyneth Owen – Telephone Number 01202 883461

Deacon: Alison McMillan – Telephone Number 01258 456525