

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 22nd April

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our morning worship which is being led by Mr Tony Coghlan. The Stewards are Grahame Downer and John and Margaret Cornish. Thank you to our organist, Andrew Jones, and to Margaret Dymond 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: Psalm 23:1-6 and Matthew 9:9-13

Events Sunday 22nd to 29th April

Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddlers' Group
Tuesday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
	7.00 pm	Bible Study, The Manse
Friday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
	7.00 pm	Close Encounters Youth Club (ages 8 – 12 years)
Saturday	7.30 pm	'The Bible in 55 Minutes', Verwood URC
Sunday	10.45 am	All age morning worship led by Deacon Alison McMillan
	3.00 pm	Dementia friendly service, Parish Church

Bible in One Year: 23rd – 29th April: 2 Samuel 16 – 1 Kings 5 and Luke 17:20 – Luke 20:26

Diary Dates:

Thursday 3rd May

Monday 7th May

Thursday 10th May

Sunday 20th May

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, 7.00 pm – all welcome – see below

Blandford Georgian Fayre: church open for refreshments, book stall and quiet contemplation

Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm

Pentecost Ecumenical Service, URC, 9.00 am

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a Church Council meeting on Thursday May 3rd at 7 pm to which you are warmly invited. This Church Council has less of a focus on "business" and more of a focus on the life and witness of the church. Amongst other things, we will be talking about how to follow through ideas from our recent Away Day at Holtwood; the setting up of membership classes; a new Bible study time plus a time for prayer; social events through the summer months.

Some may read this and think, "This isn't for me". Please reconsider. We are a small church numerically and we need as many people as possible, members and non-members alike, to take an active interest in our planning and conversations.

Gwyneth Owen

Flower Rota: If anyone would like to be included on the June to August flower rota, then please have a word with Becky Gransden.

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

‘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

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.

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

The Link: if you would like to contribute to The Link in any way - perhaps you would like to share a recent experience; perhaps you help with one of the activities / events at church and would like to let others in the congregation know what has been happening; perhaps you have been on a church outing or event; perhaps you have a poem or bible passage you would like to share – then please send articles to me at mags@woodview.me.uk. Alternatively, please give handwritten articles to me on a Sunday. Don't forget – this newsletter is not just to inform you of upcoming events, but is a place where we can share with others our ideas, thoughts and experiences – somewhere where we can link people together.

Margaret Cornish

Prayer for the week:

*Wisdom is more precious than rubies,
and nothing you desire can compare with her. Proverbs 8:11*
God offers the true riches of wisdom to all who seek and follow Him.

Minister: Rev Gwyneth Owen – Telephone Number 01202 883461

Deacon: Alison McMillan – Telephone Number 01258 456525