

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 6th May

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by the Reverend David Ellis. The Stewards are Tina Wise and Alan and Margaret Dymond. Thank you to our organist, Angela Walden, and to Christine Downer 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: Daniel 7 v 9 – 14 and Luke 24 v 44 – 53

Events Sunday 6th to 13th May

Monday	10.00 am	Georgian Fayre – Church will be open for refreshments etc.
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Prayer walk, starting at the Evangelical Church
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)
Sunday	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen

Bible in One Year: 7th – 13th May: 2 Kings 1 – 18 and Luke 24 – John 3

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 16 th May	'Thy Kindom Come', prayer event in church, 10.30 am (see below for further details)
Sunday 20 th May	Pentecost Ecumenical Service, URC, 9.00 am
Thursday 24 th May	Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Saturday 26 th May	Film, Paddington 2, followed by tea in the church hall, 2.00 pm
Thursday 21 st June	Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Thursday 5 th July	Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm
Thursday 19 th July	Bible Study, The Manse, 7.00 pm

Pastoral worker: It is with very great pleasure that we are able to let you know that Joyce Wild has been appointed as our pastoral lay worker to replace Di Browning who recently retired. Joyce will take up this post from 1st September and her duties will include pastoral visiting and lunch club amongst other things. We are very grateful to Joyce for putting herself forward for this post and we wish her God's blessing as she takes on this very important work for the church.

Georgian Fayre, May 7th: Immediately after coffee on Sunday 6th May we need to clear the back store room as well as putting out tables and chairs in the hall in readiness for Georgian Fayre Day on Monday 7th May. If you can stay and help that would be so appreciated. *Joyce Wild*

Christian Aid Week takes place during the week of 13th to 20th May and there will be posters around the church announcing this. Envelopes will be given out this Sunday to be returned by 13th May, please. As well as any donations via the envelopes, the proceeds from the Georgian Fayre will also go to this charity.

Joyce Wild

Church Heating: At the moment, the church heating is regulated by both David Wild and Alan Dymond. It would be very helpful if we could have a third person involved in this: if you think this is something you might be able to help with, please have a word with either David or Alan.

Thy Kingdom Come: This is a global ecumenical prayer movement from 10th – 20th May (Ascension to Pentecost).

There are lots of great resources on the website: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/> and on the Methodist Church website: <http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/thy-kingdom-come/>

The churches in Blandford will be marking this week with a prayer event on **Wednesday 16th May at 10.30 am** here at the Methodist Church. It would be good to see a good turn-out of folk from our own church supporting this time of Christian Unity with the churches in Blandford.

Alison McMillan

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.

Film time: Come and join us in the church hall on Saturday 26th May at 2.00 pm to watch Paddington 2 followed by a tea. All are welcome to join us for this fun time together. Hope to see you there.

Gwyneth and

Alison

Lunch at Colehill: Saturday 12th May, 12.00 noon – 2.00 pm. Proceeds to Future Pillars Zambia. All welcome. Further details can be found on the poster in the Hall.

Methodist Women in Britain: A 'Sharing Day' will be held on Thursday 5th July at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church, 10.00 am to 3.30 pm when the speaker will be Sister Imelda Poole from the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation. Further information can be found on the poster in the Hall.

Social event: I would like to float the idea of a French event, featuring the game of boules. It is a great team game and can be played by people of all abilities. I would construct a bouldrome suitable for use inside or outside the church. Catering could include such French culinary delights as French onion soup with garlic bread, croque monsieur and pain au chocolat. If anyone is interested in this idea, and if anyone has a set of boules, please have a word with me.

Alan Dymond

Good Reading! In the Narthex last Sunday (and hopefully still) were copies of 2 publications which are well worth reading. There were a number of copies of "The Connexion", a magazine published by the Methodist Church nationally. This Spring Edition has, on its front cover, the title "Sharing Testimonies", and it contains "Inspiring stories from the life of your Methodist Church". It contains articles full of interest and encouragement from various parts of the country, and on page 15 we find a picture of a smiling Gwyneth, together with "unsung heroes" from churches in our Circuit - Wimborne, Milford and Bransgore. Gwyneth relates "testimonies over time" from people who are faithful disciples of Christ, and still active church workers at the age of 80 or more (and thus even older than me!). Please read this piece, and indeed the rest of the magazine.

Also in the Narthex was just one copy, which you are welcome to browse at coffee time or to borrow, of the Annual Report of the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT). This is the body which organises the popular "Ride & Stride" event which brings cyclists and walkers to our church on the second Saturday in September (this year the 8th). Liz Boyd and Jean Peck have taken part in recent years: their efforts (with the support of sponsors) raised £307 last year - half way up the "league" of nearly 200 churches, well behind Blandford Roman Catholics but ahead of the Parish Church! £86,000 was raised, and DHCT were able to make grants to 19 churches of between £1,000 and £12,000. We ourselves received a grant in 1998 towards our major refurbishment. So what's all this about? Is it just about helping to repair church buildings that have become a terrible burden to their hard-pressed congregations and ought to be closed? In his front page article in the Report, Canon Eric Woods (Rector of Sherborne) considers this view but rejects it. He suggests that the purpose of the DHCT is both Maintenance AND MISSION, and that the grants they give are intended to "help churches to stay open as tools of mission and as flagships of the Spirit". Please have a look at the Report and see what you think. And it may just prompt you to help the DHCT this year by helping to staff the church on 8th September, by sponsoring a Rider or Strider - or even by riding or striding yourself! The forms are expected to arrive in June.

Grahame Downer

THE LINK, Sunday 13th May: If you have any items for inclusion in next Sunday's issue of The Link, please can you send them to Barry Gransden on b.gransden@virgin.net as John and I will be away on holiday.

Margaret Cornish

Circuit Website: Just a reminder that all items in The Link – plus a lot more besides! – can be found on the circuit website: www.candwmc.org.uk. Take a look – you will even find photos of our recent Away Day on the website.

Church Council: paper copies of the minutes of previous church council meetings can be found in a folder in the Narthex. If you have trouble locating the folder, please have a word with Grahame Downer or Eric Brown.

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:

Lord, today we lift our eyes from the circumstances that discourage us to see You in Your splendour, and find peace.

Minister: Rev Gwyneth Owen – Telephone Number 01202 883461

Deacon: Alison McMillan – Telephone Number 01258 456525