

## Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Mark Priestley. The stewards today are Christine Lydford and Joyce Wild. Thank you to Margaret Dymond for the flowers. Please join us in the hall after the service for refreshments.

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### **Dates for your diary:**

Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	10.45 am	Local Arrangement
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Peter McNeill
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	2.30 pm	Church social afternoon of fun and games, with light refreshments – further details below
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>2.30 pm</b>	Church Council meeting
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Brian Skelley

**Colehill Methodist: Every Monday**, 11.00 am to 12.00 noon(ish), Bible Study, coffee, prayers and plenty of chat. All welcome.

**Bible in a year:** 21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January: Exodus 1 – 18 and Matthew 14 – 18:20

**Meet Reverend Dr Mark Kimber:** From 10.00 am every Friday, Reverend Dr Mark Kimber can be found in either the Okeford Room or the Vestry should you wish to have a chat with him.

**Happy birthday** to Mark who celebrates his birthday this week.

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**Church Social Afternoon, 17<sup>th</sup> February:** Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February from 2.30 pm when Mr Alan Dymond will be hosting an indoor boules competition on his own home-made indoor professional standard pentanque pitch. There will be easy table games to play as well. No experience is necessary, although the ability to enjoy a laugh and a bit of fun is essential! During the afternoon, light refreshments will be served. A donation of £3 towards the cost of the refreshments will be appreciated. A sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church for you to book your place. Please indicate on the form if you have any dietary requirements. We would appreciate it if names could be added to the list no later than Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February to assist us with our catering. If you are able to pay when signing up, it will be a great help. Family and friends are also very welcome.

*Margaret Cornish*

**Crowe Hill:** Services for Healing and Renewal – Reflective services with a Christian Healing Ministry and the opportunity for personal prayer. Dates for January to June can be found on the poster in the hall.

**Church Charity Donation:** At the last Church Council, it was agreed that the church would donate £100 to charity and it was decided to buy £100-worth of food for the Foodbank which I took the action to purchase.

I approached Morrisons, Tesco and Lidl asking if they would supplement the gift from Blandford Methodist Church. No positive responses were received - except to say that they are supporting the Foodbank in other ways. The exception was Southern Co-op. They have a community programme called "Love Your Neighbourhood", which allows colleagues to support charities, community groups and local projects in the area with a donation of goods or funding. You can find out more at

<http://www.thesouthernco-operative.co.uk/makingadifference/love-your-neighbourhood/>.

I visited the Co-op in Salisbury Street on Tuesday 16th January. I explained who I was and handed in their "Retain Goods Donation Application" form, completed for donations to the Foodbank. I also said that I was here to purchase £100-worth of groceries for the Foodbank. The Co-op's scheme has a limited funding for each shop to make their donations through the year to worthy causes. The Manager was very happy to assist me in my shopping as she knew exactly where items were on shelves and a very helpful assistant helped put items through the till and into my bags. The Manager said that once the next deliveries arrive to restock the shop she will put aside a sizeable donation of groceries for me to collect and deliver to the Foodbank. So, a big thank you to the Co-op which has a heart for the local communities.

*John Cornish*

**Proposed Ascension Day Service:** It has been suggested that on Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm the Circuit comes together for an Ascension Day Service. This will be an open-air service at a suitable central venue, possibly in or close to Ringwood (if the weather is inclement, it will take place in a church). Before the service at 6.00 pm you are invited to bring a deckchair and your tea and share fellowship with those gathered.

What a great opportunity to openly profess our faith and witness to those in the vicinity this would be. Further down the line we will be looking for musicians, singers, and readers but initially we would like to know if there would be support from the congregations for this venture.

If you wish to attend, or take part, then please let John Cornish know before Sunday 3rd March.

*John Cornish*

**Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of -**

Jam/marmalade                  Squash                  Rice pudding

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

Coffee (small jars)                  Tinned carrots                  Tinned green beans

Washing-up liquid

For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point.

*John Cornish*

**Prayer:** Please can we remember to uphold in prayer those members of our congregation who we know are ill or suffering in some way.

If you know of anyone who would like prayer and be mentioned by name in The Link, please let me know (having obtained their permission first to mention them by name).

**Minister:** Reverend Dr Mark Kimber  
Enquiries via Lead Steward, John Cornish, on 07799 516 735

**Pastoral Support:** Joyce Wild: Tel: 01258 454091