

## Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### *Happy New Year!*

*Each new year brings us new opportunities to know Him more,  
to walk in faith, and grow by His grace.*

*May your year ahead be blessed in the Lord.*

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our all age Morning Worship which is being led by Deacon Alison McMillan. The Stewards are Barry Gransden, David Wild and Anne Bennett. Thank you to our organist, Angela Walden, and thank you also to Angela 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:** Isaiah 60: 1 – 6 and Matthew 2:1 – 12

### **Events Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January**

Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddler group
Tuesday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Thursday	10.45 am	Coffee Morning
Friday	11.00 am	Bible Study
Friday	12.45 pm	Lunch Club
Saturday	8.30 am	Circuit prayers, Colehill Methodist Church
Saturday	12.00 noon	Lunch with proceeds to Future Pillars Zambia
Sunday	10.45 am	Covenant Service and Holy Communion led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen and Deacon Alison McMillan

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**Bible in One Year:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> January: Genesis 18 – 32 and Matthew 6 - 9

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### **Diary Dates:**

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Meeting at church re Blandford churches together, 10.00 am (see article below)
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	Church Lunch
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Church Away Day
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Church Anniversary: Preacher Reverend John Carne

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**Church Cleaning:** For a couple of years now, Jean Peck has been faithfully employed cleaning our premises each week for which we are very grateful. Jean has now given notice that she wishes to finish her employment in March 2019 and so we will need to find a replacement to take over her cleaning duties. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested in taking over from Jean, then please have a chat with John Cornish.

**Blandford Churches Together:** As many of you are aware, the leaders of all the churches in Blandford meet once a month to share a meal and have a conversation. Over this last year, this small 'coming together' has led to some joint activities, most notably the Walk of Witness and the Ecumenical Service at our own church in September.

I have now joined these lunchtime sessions with Alison and I am very encouraged by what seems to be a growing desire to move beyond '*the what*' and '*the how*' of joint activities across our churches,

even though these are vital aspects. The agenda now includes an exploration of why we want to join

together - yes, despite what might separate us. Supported by Steve Annandale, consultant with Faithworks Wessex, a workshop has been arranged for Tuesday 5th February 2019 between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm when the main purpose is to interrogate collaborative faith in action. Each church will be represented by 2 or 3 people (in addition to ministers), so whilst this is not anticipated to be a large group, it is bigger than the usual throng.

In preparation for 5th February, you are all invited to a Blandford Methodist Church meeting on **Friday 25th January at 10.00 am** in church to discuss what collaborative faith in action means to us. The meeting will last for one hour. It is anticipated that there will be two main benefits of our discussion:

1. All members and adherents will have the opportunity to contribute to this significant issue as we consider our own future,
2. The small team representing BMC will be better informed to express all our views at the Churches Together meeting on 5th February.

*Gransden*

*Barry*

**Thank you:** I would like to thank everyone at Blandford Methodist Church for the birthday card and good wishes it contained.

*Stephanie Bishop*

**Events at Woodlands Methodist:** 'Worship For You' service on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6.00 pm, led by the Holtwood Mission Band, followed by tea, coffee and cake. Everyone welcome.

Quiz Night on 25<sup>th</sup> January in Verwood Village Hall with fish and chip supper. Cost £2 per head for supper. For further details and tickets, please phone 01202 822066.

**Colehill Methodist:** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January - circuit prayers at 8.30 am.

12.00 noon – 2.00 pm lunch with proceeds to Future Pillars Zambia.

**Horton Heath Methodist:** 'Jesus the Game Changer', how the life and teaching of Jesus changed the world. Ten sessions, Monday evenings, 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm. Further details on the poster in the hall.

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

*Can we still remember in prayer Jean and Roy Jeffrey: following an operation, Roy is still in hospital.*

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*May the coming year be one of increased riches of grace –  
hearing His voice more clearly,  
knowing His heart more deeply,  
resting in His love more fully,  
trusting His care more completely,  
walking his pathway more peacefully,  
knowing His presence more intimately,  
blessed by His goodness more abundantly.*

*Roy Lessin*

**Minister:** Rev Gwyneth Owen – Telephone Number 01202 883461

**Deacon:** Alison McMillan – Telephone Number 01258 456525