

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 8th March
(Second Sunday in Lent)

Good morning, and a very warm welcome to our morning worship with Holy Communion which is being led by the Reverend Pauline Crispin. The Stewards are John Cornish, David Wild and Pat Dryden. Thank you to Becky Gransden for the flowers. When the candle is lit at the front of the church before the start of the service, may we ask you to remain silent as you prepare yourselves for our time of worship. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the service, so please do stay for coffee and a chat.

Today's readings are: Genesis 12:1-4 and John 3:1-17

Events Sunday 8th to 15th March

Monday	9.45 am	Baby and Toddler Group
Tuesday	10.00 am	Pastoral visitors' meeting
Tuesday	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Tuesday	7.00 pm	Church Council meeting
Wednesday	10.00 am	Bible Study
Thursday	10.00 am	Coffee Morning
Friday	12.30 pm	Lunch Club
Saturday	12.00 noon	Lunch for FPZ, Colehill Methodist Church
Sunday	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Miss Elizabeth Ward

Bible in One Year: 9th – 15th March: Deuteronomy 8 – 27 and Mark 11:19 – 14:53

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 25 th March	Stewards meeting, 11.00 am
Saturday 28 th March	Friends and Neighbours: 'Who Dun It' murder mystery evening, 6.00 pm
Sunday 29 th March	Ecumenical Service, Blandford Methodist Church, led by Reverend Pauline Crispin
Thursday 9 th April	Maundy Thursday Service, 7.30 pm, United Reformed Church
Friday 10 th April	Good Friday Service, 11.45 pm
Sunday 10 th May	Church Anniversary, followed by lunch
Saturday 19 th September	Circuit Prayer event, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm – further details to follow
Monday 21 st September	Circuit Prayer event, 9.00 am – 12.30 pm – further details to follow

Church Council Meeting: The Church Council Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 10th March** at 7.00 pm. Any matters of Any Other Business should be given to The Chair (Pauline Crispin) **by the end of today's morning worship**. All are welcome to attend.

Lunch Club – Call My Bluff: On Tuesday 17th March after Lunch Club our Fellowship Hour is hosting a Call My Bluff session. This begins at 1.30 pm and we would love it if folk from the church congregation and any of their friends would join us for this special afternoon of fun and laughter. The more the merrier. The three gentleman who run the event are very entertaining and the whole

hour will be a hoot.

Joyce Wild

Lent Challenge, Action for Children: Sheets are now available in the Narthex for this year's Lent Challenge for Action for Children. Please do take one and then return all proceeds to me on Easter Sunday. **Please could Action for Children Boxes be returned to Joyce for their yearly emptying.** If Joyce is away preaching, please give your box to the steward on duty. *Joyce Wild*

Holiday at Home: The Easter Holiday at Home will take place on Saturday 4th April from 10.00 am – 3.00 pm in the hall. Cost £6 and all are very welcome. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please pass your money to Rona or Joyce. *Joyce Wild*

“Curry Night” at Blandford Methodist: On Saturday, 29th February, the Friends and Neighbours team held their first “Curry Night”. 35 people attended, many being church members, although some were from the Church's Lunch Club with a few neighbours from around the Church.

As people arrived they listened to contemporary “Café Bombay” Indian music and were invited to decipher a couple of pages of Dingbats which was won by Nicola Barnett.

At 6.30 pm the first course of poppadoms with a selection of pickles were enjoyed. This was followed by a main course of either chicken or beef curry or chicken casserole with rice, Bombay potatoes and naan bread. To cool the tongue, a dessert of mango sauce drizzled over ice-cream and served with a tangy orange and almond flavoured cookie was served. This was followed by tea or coffee.

For the entertainment, Alan Dymond set out two quizzes: the first involved answering questions, where the answers were all based on an English word where the root word came from the Indian language. The second quiz asked general knowledge questions about India.

Alan Dymond then entertained us with some “Doctor Doctor” jokes assisted by our ‘kitchen maids’ which was followed by a comedy routine with Alan and Brian Dryden acting out their version of the song “Well, Goodness Gracious Me”. Brian and Alan were both “dressed” for the occasion.

In conclusion, this was a very enjoyable time in good company with good food and good entertainment. Many thanks to the catering team of Margaret Dymond, Pat Dryden and Margaret Cornish. Thanks, also, to the team who transformed the church hall to an Indian Curry House.

The next Friends and Neighbours social event will be a “Murder Mystery - Who dun' it” evening with a light supper on Saturday, 28th March. Everyone is very welcome, but for catering purposes, a sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex for those wishing to attend. *John Cornish*

Woodlands Methodist:

- Worship for You service, March 8th, led by Reverend Pauline Crispin.

Verwood Methodist:

- Riding Lights Theatre Company present ‘The Narrow Road’ – this is powerful theatre on the run-up to Easter by a professional theatre company. Tuesday 31st March, 7.30 pm at Verwood Methodist. Tickets £8. Details on poster in hall.
- ‘Sometimes, Always, Never’, a film for Holy Week, Wednesday 8th April, 7.15 pm. Further details on poster in hall.

The Methodist Church: Coronavirus Guidance: At this time, the UK Chief Medical Officers consider the risk to individuals from Coronavirus as moderate. The Methodist Church is monitoring the situation and has issued the following guidance to ensure the risks are reduced, recommending practical precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

Reverend Paul Wood, Interim Director of the Ministries Team, commented: “Our prayers are with all those who have been affected either by the illness or the measures to prevent its spread. The

advice for churches is for good hygiene with regular hand washing and for particular care to be taken in the preparation of sharing the elements at Holy Communion.”

Precautions:

- Wash hands with soap and water often or use hand sanitiser gel. This is particularly important for servers at Holy Communion.
- Churches may wish to use the traditional small glasses for communion to reduce the chances of infection.
- Where a common cup or chalice is used, attendees with coughs and sneezes should be encouraged to receive Communion in one kind only. That is the bread only. The practice of ‘intinction’, dipping the bread into the wine, should be avoided as this may spread the virus.
- Ministers should consider whether it is appropriate to share the peace during services, especially if some members feel they are unable to participate.
- It is probably a good time to remind Communion Stewards that communion wine once poured out should never be returned to the bottle to be reused later. Any remaining elements should be reverently consumed or *put to ground*.

The symptoms of Coronavirus infection are a cough, a high temperature and shortness of breath. Those with such symptoms who have returned from China, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Iran or Northern Italy in the last 14 days, or who have been in contact with someone confirmed as having the Coronavirus, should call 111 for further advice.

Full details can be obtained from Public Health England. Additional information is available from the NHS website.

Phil Dixon's Ordination, Walsall 28th June: Should anyone wish to attend Phil Dixon’s Ordination on 28th June (Conference Sunday), Joyce is kindly organizing a coach to go from our circuit, with appropriate local collection points. The coach will be a 53-seater, so numbers are strictly limited. If you wish to go to the Ordination by coach, please fill in your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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

Prayer for the week:

What ‘mountain’ are you climbing today?

What assurance do you find in knowing God is watching over you?

Our loving Father, as we travel the road of life, thank You for watching over us, keeping us safe.

Minister: Reverend Pauline Crispin (Tel: 01202 883461)