



## Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December

### Third Sunday in Advent

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led for us by Mrs Joyce Wild. The stewards are Margaret Cornish and Margaret and Alan Dymond. Thank you to Angela Walden for playing for us and thanks, also, to Angela for the flowers. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the service, so please do stay for a coffee and chat. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of refreshments, which will go towards church funds, then please put your donation in the bowl on the hatch.

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

Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 am	Bible Study in the Okeford Room
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	10.45 am	Church Carol Service with Infant Baptism, led by Reverend Pauline Crispin
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30 pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service at Blandford Methodist Church
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 am	Christmas Day Service at the United Reformed Church
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	10.45 am	Normal Sunday worship led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2022	10.45 am	Covenant Service, to be led by Reverend Pauline Crispin
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	Stewards meeting
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	7.00 pm	Church Council meeting

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**Bible in a year:** 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December: Hosea 9 – Obadiah and Revelation 3 – 9

**Carol Service, 19<sup>th</sup> December:** Our Carol Service this year will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December and we look forward to a joyous time of singing (behind masks, unfortunately) and starting the celebrations for Christmas. Following the service, instead of the normal coffee and biscuits, come and join us for some special pre-Christmas light refreshments. As part of our Carol Service, we will also be celebrating an Infant Baptism so we will be welcoming about 20 extra guests to the service. In order to ensure the continued Covid-safe environment at church, we will try and group the Baptismal party together on one side of the church. We have also been advised that they will not be joining us for coffee and Christmas nibbles after the service as they have their own celebrations to go to. We hope this reassures you and that you feel you will be able to join us for the Carol Service.

**Christmas Cards:** Could I please ask that if you bring Christmas cards to church for friends that you pass them directly to the recipient and not leave them in the Narthex to be distributed by the stewards. Thank you.

*Joyce Wild*

**Eric Brown:** It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of Eric on the 4<sup>th</sup> December. At his request, Eric's body has gone to medical science. There will be a small private service at the church, although we do not yet have a date, and then sometime next year there will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Eric's life in the church.

*Joyce Wild*

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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.

Please can we especially remember **Jacky Brown**, following the recent death of Eric. And can we continue to uphold in prayer **Chris and Anne Ovey**: Chris is making slow but steady progress in Dorchester Hospital whilst Anne continues to cope at home with the help of Joyce and other friends.

Also, Carol Barnes from the URC died in early December and next Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a Service of Thanksgiving at the URC at 12.00 noon. Those who knew Carol are welcome to attend the service.

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).

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**Blandford Foodbank:** *In October the Food Bank delivered 43 food parcels: in November, 101 food parcels were sent out.* This is probably due to the Government stopping the £20 a week uplift to people's Universal Credit. This £20/week credit was always going to be a short-term measure to ease people through the Covid-19 pandemic. The problem was that people relied on that extra £80 per month and are now suffering since it has been taken away.

If you can spare any packeted or tinned food, especially tinned meats or pies, this would all be gratefully received. Please bring what you can to Church and pass it to John Cornish who will pass it on to Blandford Food Bank. Alternatively, call John on 07799 516 735 and ask him to collect it on a Tuesday or Thursday between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm.

The team working on Community Money Advice (CMA) is growing. We now have active support from Paula, Heather, Mike and myself, with another four who have stepped back for a while for family reasons.

The Christian Buddies now has a team of four supporting and offering friendship to eight food bank clients. There is always the need for more Buddies to volunteer an hour a week to make a couple of phone calls.

Plans are in place to create Blandford Grocery, planned to be located within Blandford URC. This will be a shop where people can buy food they need at an affordable price per bag. This is an exciting extension of the Food Bank and it is early days where no firm decisions have been made. However, we are now advertising for a paid part-time person to join the staff team to head up the development of Blandford Grocery and to then bring it into full operations. The role will become full-time once operations get started. If you know of a person that would like to apply before the closing date of 20<sup>th</sup> December, then please ask them to contact John Cornish 07799 516 735 in the first instance.

Why bring this to your attention? We value your prayerful support for these ventures. We are trusting that this is the Lord's plan and although we do not know all the answers yet, we know the One in whom we can trust.

*John Cornish*

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**Minister:**

Reverend Pauline Crispin

(Tel: 01202 883461)

Email: [paulinecrispin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paulinecrispin@yahoo.co.uk)

**Pastoral Support:**

Joyce Wild: (Tel: 01258 454091)