

## **Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Good morning and a warm welcome to our morning worship with Holy Communion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent which is being led by Reverend Robert McBain. The stewards today are Tina Wise, Joyce Wild and Jean Peck. Thank you to Angela Walden for playing for us and thank you, also, to Angela for the flowers. Following the service, please do stay for refreshments in the hall.

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

Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> December		Highcliffe Christmas Tree Festival – further details on poster in hall
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30 pm	Carols by Candlelight, Parish Church
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00 pm	“Worship for You” at Woodlands
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 am	Advent Bible Study, Colehill – <b>see note below</b>
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	10.45 am	<b>Carol Service</b> at Methodist Church led by Reverend Pauline Crispin
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 am	Christingle Service in the Parish Church
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 am	Advent Bible Study, Colehill
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b> , United Reformed Church
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b> , Blandford Methodist Church
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	10-45 am	Covenant Service
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am	Ecumenical Service at the Parish Church

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**Bible in a year:** 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> December: Hosea 5 – Amos 9 and Revelation 2 - 8

**Bible Study:** The weekly Advent Bible Study will now be held at Colehill at 11.00 am on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December rather than at Blandford on a Wednesday.

**Woodlands “Worship for You” on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.** There will be carols by candlelight with the Verwood Concert Brass Band. This is followed by tea/coffee and mince pies. Everyone welcome.

**Christmas Cards:** We welcome the giving and receiving of Christmas Cards to friends at Church. However, we would be grateful if you could arrange to give your cards in person and not to leave them on a table for others to deliver for you. Thank you for your consideration.

*The Stewards*

**Christmas Day Meal:** For those who are own their own whether they are single or a couple the church is opening for Lunch at 12.30 pm on Christmas Day. The cost is £5.00 and booking with payment is essential. Contact Joyce Wild on 07817 505543.

**Morning Offertory:** It was agreed at the last Church Council Meeting that from the beginning of January 2023 an offertory would not be taken up during the course of the morning worship. Instead, plates will be placed in the Narthex and at the entrance to the hall so you can place your offertory on one of the plates – either as you come in to church, or as you move into the hall for refreshments after the service. This will be a trial and will be reviewed at Easter when a decision will be made whether or not to continue with this method of offertory.

**Salvation Army Carol Concert, 4th December:** What a joy it was to hear the Salvation Army's brass band starting off this year's Carol Concert, the first since 2019 due to Covid-19.

With around 90 people from Blandford joining us, it was a perfect opportunity to set the scene in anticipation of Christmas. The bible readings and words spoken were well thought through. Especially the reflection on the Shepherds who were expecting an "ordinary day" and what a surprise they had.

Whilst raising funds is not our primary purpose, it was a real joy that collectively we raised £340 to be shared equally between the Salvation Army (Wimborne Branch) and TREADS. Thanks to Libby Lloyd (TREADS) and Carole Gadsden (Salvation Army) for updating us with the work being done by their two organisations.

Also I want to say a big "THANK YOU" to our members at Church who helped in so many ways, either by shopping, cooking, preparing, shifting furniture, serving refreshments and taking part in the concert. Thank you to all.

We do rely on such a small team at Church. Yet, by working together we achieve great events. And through this event we were able to set out the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you.

*John Cornish*

**A "Thank you" note from TREADS:** Thank you so very much for considering Treads to receive the very generous donation of £170, and the opportunity to attend the wonderful Christmas Carol concert given by the Salvation Army. Sadly, due to COVID, I was the only member of Treads able to attend the service: however they are, like myself delighted to receive this donation and would also like to say a very big thank you.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy new year. Best Wishes.

*Libby Lloyd (Senior Youth Leader)*

*Treads Young People's Advice & Information Centre Blandford Forum*

**A "Thank you" from the Salvation Army:** Thanks for allowing us to come across and share our Christmas Carol concert with you: it really is appreciated and not taken for granted. Thanks for all the preparation beforehand (and thanks, John, for printing off carol sheets beforehand). The offertory amount was amazing and we are grateful for being on the receiving end - again, not taken for granted. Thanks to readers, offertory team, and refreshment team - these things don't happen automatically – thank you to everyone for your hard work. Best wishes and God bless for Advent/Christmas and 2023.

*Carole Gadsden, Wimborne Salvation Army*

**Crowe Hill Methodist Church:** Once again, Crowe Hill will be holding a 'Blue Christmas' on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 pm. This will be an act of worship, offering peace and healing

for all those who find this season of the year difficult. Further details can be found on the poster in the hall.

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

- Deodorant
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned vegetables

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

- Porridge
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned soup
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

**Prayer:** Please can we continue 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 Pauline Crispin  
(Tel: 01202 883461)

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

**Pastoral Support:**

Joyce Wild: (Tel: 01258 454091)