

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 1st January 2023

Happy New Year!

Good morning and a warm welcome to our first service of 2023 which is being led by Mrs Joyce Wild. The stewards today are Margaret Cornish and Rona Downes. Thank you to Angela Walden for playing for us and thank you to Angela for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 7 th January	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
Sunday 8 th January	10.45 am	Covenant Service led by Revered Pauline Crispin
Tuesday 10 th January	2.30 pm	Stewards meeting followed by property meeting
Sunday 15 th January	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Mr David Webb
Sunday 29 th January	10.30 am	Ecumenical Service at the Parish Church
Saturday 4 th February	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist

Bible in a year: 1st – 6th January: Genesis 1 – 19 and Matthew 1 – 6:18

Morning Offertory: As mentioned in previous editions of the Link, the offertory will 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.

Christmas Day Lunch: On Christmas Day thirty folk gathered in the Hall for a Christmas Day home cooked lunch. Some were church members, others were from Lunch Club and still other people were from the local community who had either read about or heard about the lunch. When the guests arrived, they were greeted with the offer of a cup of non-alcoholic mulled wine and a variety of canapes. Then whilst seated at the festively decorated tables there could be heard chatting, the pulling of crackers and the breaking open of the shloer as people settled into the event.

At 12.30 pm and after a Christmas joke was told, grace was said and a delicious Christmas turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served. Santa's helpers that day were Mark and Tessa in the kitchen, with David, Liz, Darren and Ashley front of house.

My sincere thanks to Mark who, in his enthusiasm, not only shopped for all the ingredients but lovingly chopped, peeled, roasted, stirred and prepared the Christmas food. What a star. Following the main course there was the traditional Christmas pudding and custard or, for those who preferred something different, a generous helping of Black Forest trifle. Rounding off the meal was a cup of tea or coffee and mints.

To keep us entertained there was a seasonal quiz, a group rendition of The Twelve Days of Christmas and one or two other festive games.

By 2.30 pm the diners began to wend their way home having had a very enjoyable meal, pleasant company, and a little bit of fun on this special occasion rather than spending the day their own.

To take home everyone had one of Tina's homemade cake-topped mince pies and chocolate fudge, along with several goodies delivered from the Parish Rooms after their Christmas Day event.

A comment David heard as folk were leaving was, "Hope to see you next year".

Joyce Wild

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
- Bars of soap
- Cleaning products such as washing up liquid, surface cleaner, cleaning sponges

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 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

Pastoral Support:

Joyce Wild: (Tel: 01258 454091)