

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 12th March (3rd in Lent)

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Local Arrangement service in which many of our congregation are taking part. The stewards today are Margaret and Alan Dymond. Thank you to Angela Walden for playing for us and also for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 13 th March	11.00 am	Lent Bible Study, Colehill Methodist
Sunday 19 th March	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Peter McNeill (Mothering Sunday)
Sunday 26 th March	10.45 am	Café Church
Sunday 14 th May	10.45 am	Church Anniversary led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen, followed by lunch in the hall
Saturday 1 st April	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
Sunday 9 th April	10.45 am	Easter Sunday service led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Sunday 30 th April	10.30 am	Ecumenical service, Blandford Camp
Sunday 16 th July:	10.45 am	Pauline's final service at Blandford Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 23 rd July:	4.30 pm	Leaving Service for Reverend Pauline Crispin at Trinity Church, Ringwood
Sunday 24 th September	10.45 am	Harvest festival service led by Reverend Nick Wood from Verwood Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall

Bible in a year: 12th – 18th March: Deuteronomy 17 – 34 and Mark 13 – 15

Reverend Linda Chester: As you may have read in Reverend Pauline Crispin's Sabbatical letter, the Reverend Linda Chester was to have had pastoral oversight of Colehill and Blandford Methodist Churches. Since Pauline's letter was published, the Reverend Linda Chester has asked to step back from this duty. Her request has been accepted. To move forward with a plan, Joyce Wild has had discussions on this matter with Reverend Nick Wood who is acting Superintendent whilst Pauline is on her Sabbatical and annual leave. Resulting from that meeting, Joyce will continue in her role with full pastoral oversight of the church and will be the main point of contact during Pauline's Sabbatical in all matters relating to the church. However, if we absolutely need a minister in that period, then Joyce will call on Reverend Nick Wood to assist.

Offertory: A reminder that there will not be an offertory taken up during the morning service: instead, plates will be available in the Narthex and on the table near the organ on which you may place your offerings.

Lent Bible Studies: These will take place on Mondays at 11.00 am at Colehill Methodist. Each study can stand alone, so if you cannot come to them all, you are most welcome to join for as many or as few as you are able. These gatherings are incredibly 'user friendly' and informal, sharing over a 'cuppa!'

13th March: Face to face – led by Colin Besant

20th March: Led by Joyce Wild

27th March: Heart 2 heart: sorrow and joy – led by Colin Besant

3rd April: Bound in love and sacrifice – led by Colin Besant and Joyce Wild



CAFÉ CHURCH - *Discover the difference !*

On Sunday 26th March our morning service will be using a rather different style of worship. We will gather around coffee tables for light refreshments, and then have an introduction, a hymn and a bible reading.

For the next half-an-hour we will explore the bible reading through a choice of either discussion or quiet reflection or creative activities. A variety of suggestions and resources will be available to inspire our explorations, and you should be able to spend some time in at least two of these different approaches to worship.

Finally, back together at the coffee tables, there will be opportunity for anyone to share something from their 'explorations', before the service concludes with further prayers and hymns. This may sound a little strange for Sunday morning, but a good number of other Methodist Churches are finding that this style of occasional service can be refreshing and enjoyable. We hope you will come and give it a try!

Reverend David Vincent (*Wimborne*)

Church Anniversary: We are really pleased that Reverend Gwyneth Owen has agreed to come and lead our Church Anniversary on Sunday 14th May. It will be a real pleasure to meet up with Gwyneth again. Following the service, we will join together for lunch in the hall. Further details of the lunch menu, cost and a sign-up sheet will be available in the near future. We hope that you will come and join us for this service and lunch.

Sunday Service, 16th July: Sadly, this will be Pauline's final service with us at Blandford before she moves on to her new post as Minister in the Fareham area. Following the service, we will join together for lunch in the hall. Further details of the lunch menu, cost and a sign-up sheet will be available near the time. We do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for this service and lunch in order to wish Pauline every blessing in her new post.

Leaving service for Reverend Pauline Crispin: A leaving service for Pauline to thank her for her work in the Christchurch and Wimborne Circuit and to wish her well in her new post, will be held on Sunday 23rd July at Trinity Church, Ringwood. There will be tea at 4.30 pm followed by a service at 5.00 pm.

Woodlands Methodist: Whist Drive on Friday April 21st at 7.30 pm. Cost £3 each to include tea/coffee & biscuits. All welcome.

Ecumenical Service: The next ecumenical service will be held on 30th April at Blandford Camp. This will be a “first” for Blandford’s ecumenical services. To comply with Camp security, nearer the time those wishing to attend will need to sign the “sign-up” sheet in the Narthex so that John can pass names on to Padre Ken. Volunteers will also be needed to welcome and assist with refreshments. Padre Ken has said that he is expecting a congregation of about 200 to attend, made up of people at the Camp and from the churches in Blandford. Further details will follow nearer the time.

John Cornish

Blandford Foodbank: Over the last 10 years Blandford Foodbank has achieved so much and we are immensely grateful for the ongoing practical and prayerful support from the local churches. Last year we fed nearly 1800 adults and children in the DT11 area and the demand is increasing, reflecting the impact of the cost of living.

We have been looking at ways to serve and support the community most effectively and this summer we will be opening a community larder alongside the Foodbank, where people on low income and other income-related benefits will be able to access food for a small weekly cost.

The major needs of the Foodbank are donations of food or financial donations. The items we are most in need of are coffee, fruit juice, tinned fruit and tinned vegetables. Alternatively if you are interested in making a financial donation please email blandford.food@faith-works.org.uk or phone us on 01258 456093 for more information. Any food can be dropped at the Parish Centre, the URC (Tuesday and Thursday), and Morrisons and there are collection baskets at Lidl and Tesco. Also, if you have some spare time and you would like to volunteer with us please do get in touch.

Gail, Hayley and Heidi, Blandford Foodbank Team

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of -

Deodorant	Tinned fruit	Tinned vegetables
Coffee	Squash/Fruit juice	

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

Porridge	Tinned meat	Tinned soup	Jam/marmalade
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste	Bars of soap	Rice pudding
Shampoo	Tea Bags	Toilet roll	

For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point.

John Cornish

Cook and Connect: Relax, cook and eat with others in your community, learn about other cultures and meet new friends. To be held at Blandford Parish Centre. Open day, Thursday 6th April 10.30 am – 1.30 pm, then once a month on Thursday evenings, starting 4th May, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm. For further information, please see the poster in the hall.

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).

As Reverend Pauline Crispin is currently on sabbatical, for any immediate problems and concerns, please contact Joyce Wild in the first instance.

Minister:

Reverend Pauline Crispin

Pastoral Support:

Joyce Wild: (Tel: 01258 454091)