

## **Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March (5<sup>th</sup> in Lent)**



Good morning and a warm welcome to Café Church which is being led by Reverend David Vincent from Wimborne Methodist. The stewards today are Tina Wise and Rona Downes. Thank you to Tina for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

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

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	11.00 am	Lent Bible Study, Colehill Methodist
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	6.15 am	Easter Sunday United Dawn Service at the Milldown
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	10.45 am	Easter Sunday service led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 am	Ecumenical service, Blandford Camp
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	10.45 am	Church Anniversary led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July:	10.45 am	Pauline's final service at Blandford Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July:	4.30 pm	Leaving Service for Reverend Pauline Crispin at Trinity Church, Ringwood
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	10.45 am	Harvest festival service led by Reverend Nick Wood from Verwood Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall

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**Bible in a year:** 26<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April: Joshua 22 – Judges 15 and Luke 3 – 6

**Church Offerings:** The Stewards agreed to extend the use of offertory plates in the Narthex for Sunday offerings until the end of August. This matter may be discussed further at the Church Council on the 6th June.

*The Stewards*

**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!'

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

**Easter Services:** We will not be holding a service in our church on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. However, services in Blandford will be held as follows:

Maundy Thursday: 7.00 pm in the Parish Church *or*  
7.30 pm at the Evangelical Church

Good Friday: 2.00 pm in the market place – Jesus' last hours

**Easter Sunday:** We will be holding a service in our own church on Easter Sunday at 10.45 am, with Joyce Wild leading the service. **There will be no refreshments after this service.**

There will be a united **Dawn Service** at the Milldown on Easter Sunday at **6.15 am**.

**Leaving gift for Pauline:** Though it is a few months yet until our Minister and Superintendent, Reverend Pauline Crispin, leaves us for pastures new, it would be good whilst she is on Sabbatical to begin thinking about a gift from our church which will form part of her leaving present. If you would like to make a personal monetary gift, please pass this to Joyce before the end of May, and if you have any suggestions for a gift, please let Joyce know.

**Church Anniversary lunch:** Following our Church Anniversary service on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, we hope you will join us for a church family lunch. Lunch will consist of home cooked ham (*please note change to the menu*), Spanakopita, and Salmon en Croute, all served with new potatoes, side salad and green salad with tomatoes and cucumber. This will be followed by Eve's Pudding and custard and tea, coffee and mints.

The cost of the meal will be £6 per person (£2.50 for under 10s). Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to assist us with our catering. If you are able to pay when signing up, it will be a great help.

*Catering Committee*

**Ecumenical Service:** The next ecumenical service will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> 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*

**Circuit News:** Reverend Deborah Cornish has accepted the role of part-time Minister at Wimborne Methodist Church. Deborah will start in September 2023 offering six sessions per week. The CLT is working hard to make an appointment for the Methodist Churches at Colehill and Blandford.

*Joyce Wild*

**Reverend Phil Dixon:** It is with sadness that I announce that Reverend Phillip Dixon offered his resignation as a Methodist Minister to Connexion and this has been accepted by the Resignation Advisory Committee of the Methodist Church. Phil's resignation takes effect immediately. On behalf of the Circuit may I take this opportunity to thank Phil for his ministry to Highcliffe and Milford and within the Circuit and wish him all the best on the road that his journey with Christ now takes him.

*Joyce Wild, Lead Circuit Steward*

**Turkey/Syria Earthquake appeal:** Following the recent devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria which killed tens of thousands of people, and following our recent appeal at church for donations, we are pleased that Blandford Methodist donated £69 to the Disaster Emergency Committee for their 'Earthquake Appeal' to support their humanitarian work.

*The Stewards*

**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*

**Methodist Women in Britain:** Just a few more weeks and Easter will be here. If you have been collecting money in Smartie tubes for our Lent Challenge 2023 (Romanian Orphanage), please could you hand to Joyce by Easter Sunday. Thank you for all you are doing; it is appreciated.

*Joyce Wild*

**Methodist Women in Britain – Easter Offering Service:** The Easter Offering Envelopes (which were available last Sunday as well as today) are a means for the congregation to give donations to The World Mission Fund. This fund supports mission partners in 65 partner churches outside Britain and Ireland. The money is used in diverse ways to include mission appointments and scholarship and leadership training. The Easter Offering Service this year is to be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 4.00 pm for tea at Verwood Methodist Church, followed by the service at 5.00 pm. All are welcome at this service.

*Glenda Sidding*

**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)