

## **Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 2nd April (6<sup>th</sup> in Lent – Palm Sunday)**

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Colin Besant. The stewards today are Joyce Wild and Pat and Brian Dryden. 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.

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

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
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00 am	Church working party – see below
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Mr Brian Sturtridge
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 am	Ecumenical service, Blandford Camp – see below
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April: Judges 16 – 1 Samuel 12 and Luke 7 – 9

**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 <i>or</i> 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**.

**Church Working Party:** The Property Stewards have arranged for a working party to meet on the 15th April from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. This is to explore the loft, cellar, storeroom and vestry to decide what items on the premises must remain (for a purpose), or be sold, or be

dumped. We need a few people to assist with this tidying up work. If you are able to help, then please let either John or Joyce know.

**Good news:** The exciting news just keeps on coming. Firstly, on Thursday 16th March I was able to tell you about the Reverend Deborah Cornish who, through stationing, was matched with Wimborne and who will begin her role in September on a part time basis.

Secondly, Reverend Dr Mark Kimber, at present a minister without appointment, has agreed after consultations with Colehill and Blandford to be their minister from September for four sessions a week. These sessions will be shared equally between the two churches.

Thirdly, to assist the new superintendent Reverend Andrew Pottage, instead of the two lay persons posts we originally thought were needed we now have Reverend Peter McNeill, a supernumerary minister who, in a Team Ministry alongside the new superintendent on a part time basis, will have pastoral responsibility for Highcliffe and Mudeford Lane.

They say things come in threes and that is exactly what has happened. These posts will have no effect on the budget or assessments.

God is good and we thank him for sending these Ministers to us. We look forward to exciting times ahead sharing the gospel message. Hallelujah.

*Joyce Wild (Lead Steward)*

**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, 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*

**Summary of the Christchurch and Wimborne Circuit Meeting** held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

The meeting was chaired by Reverend Nicholas Wood with 35 members present and 9 apologies received.

Written reports covering Safeguarding, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders, Finance Reports and Property Report were accepted.

The appointed Circuit Stewards are Joyce Wild (Lead), Rodney Betts (Treasurer), Peter Aston, Shirley Hewitt and Christopher Slade. There is a vacancy for one further Circuit Steward.

Reverend Deborah Cornish, who was a Superintendent Minister at Brighton and Hove, was matched as a part time minister for Wimborne Methodist Church, starting in September 2023.

The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) are actively pursuing solutions for Methodist Churches at Blandford and Colehill.

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB): their project this year is looking at a partnership with a Romanian church in connection with an orphanage. Glenda Sidding related some of the history, including work incorporating orphans from a Ukrainian orphanage affected by the war, and the hazards involved in getting the children safely over the border. Churches should be aware that the local MWiB team will take a service and share the story.

Easter Offering - envelopes have gone to churches. Please give generously. The money goes to Methodist Church relief fund. Theme "No borders to God's love".

If anyone has a question on Circuit matters then please let me know.

*John Cornish*

**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, if you wish to attend please add your full name to the "sign-up" sheet (which can be found in the Narthex), so that names can be passed on to the Reverend (Major) Ken Adolphe at the camp. Volunteers will also be needed to welcome and assist with refreshments. You will need to take some form of photographic ID (such as a driving licence, bus pass, passport) with you. We have been advised that you will need to **arrive at the camp gates by 9.45 am** for the 10.30 am service (for security reasons). I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join in this service. Should anyone wish to attend and need a lift to the camp, please let me know.

*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 it 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*

**Foodbank Vacancy:** Blandford Foodbank is advertising for a permanent Debt Advisor to support their clients. The expectation is for 10-15 hours per week, based at Blandford URC,

with a salary of £12/hour. If you know of someone who is willing to apply, then please ask and I will provide more details.

*John Cornish*

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

Tinned fruit      Tinned vegetables  
Coffee                      Squash/Fruit juice

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

Tinned meat              Tinned soup              Jam/marmalade  
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*

**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)