

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 14th May

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Church Anniversary service with Holy Communion which is being led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen. We also are very pleased to welcome our friends from Colehill Methodist who are joining us today for our service and lunch. The stewards are John Cornish and Margaret and Alan Dymond. Thank you to Angela Walden for the flowers. After the service, please move through to the hall for lunch.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 14 th May	4.00 pm	Easter Offering Service at Verwood Methodist Church
Sunday 21 st May	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Reverend Roger Gisborne
Saturday 3 rd June	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
Sunday 4 th June	6.00 pm	“Going Deeper”, monthly meeting of prayer, worship and ministry at the Parish Church
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: 14th – 20th May: 2 Kings 19 – 1 Chronicles 12 and John 4 – 6

Church Council 6th June 2023: The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 6th June at 7.00 pm in the Okeford Room. All members of the church and congregation are welcome to attend, but only Trustees will be permitted to vote.

David Wild

It’s not too late to give a leaving gift for Pauline! Even 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 monetary gift towards a leaving present, please pass this to Joyce before the end of May, and if you have any suggestions for a gift, please let Joyce know.

Easter Offering Service: The Easter Offering envelopes amounted to £45.00. This will be dedicated on Sunday 14th May at Verwood Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to the service which will start with tea at 4.00 pm followed at 5.00 pm with the service.

Lent Challenge 2023: The total amount collected between Church folk and Lunch Club people for this year’s Lent challenge amounted to £336.99. This will go to a Romanian orphanage

which Deacon Glenda Sidding will be telling us about at a Sunday service in June. A big thank you to all those who took part.

Joyce Wild

Organ Recital, Wimborne Methodist: We have had our new Digital Organ installed which is a vast improvement on our previous one and cost the Church NOTHING as this has been covered by a bequest and generous funding by some members. Needless to say we are delighted, and to show appreciation we are holding a Recital at Church on Wednesday 28th June at 7.00 pm. Further details can be found on the poster in the hall.

“Going Deeper”: I, along with twenty or so other people, attended the very informal "Going Deeper" event on Sunday 7th May at the Parish Church. It was a time for people wanting a more charismatic/contemporary expression of worship, to gather in prayer to seek God's presence in the town of Blandford. Part of the bible reading was to focus on John the Baptist, where his mission had been prophesied some seven hundred years earlier by Isaiah: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight'" (Matthew 3:3 <<https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt%203.3>> ; cf. Isaiah 40:3-4 <<https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Isa%2040.3%E2%80%934>>). John was preparing the hearts of the Jews for the coming of their long-awaited King. To bring this up to date, the message on Sunday was that we need to be in our own places of wilderness, in other words getting out of our Churches, to meet people in Blandford and prepare the ground for the coming of our Lord. The next event of this kind will be at 6.00 pm on Sunday 4th June at the Parish Church. If you would like to know more, then let's have a conversation. *John Cornish*

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of -

Tinned fruit	Tinned vegetables	Coffee	Squash/Fruit juice
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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)