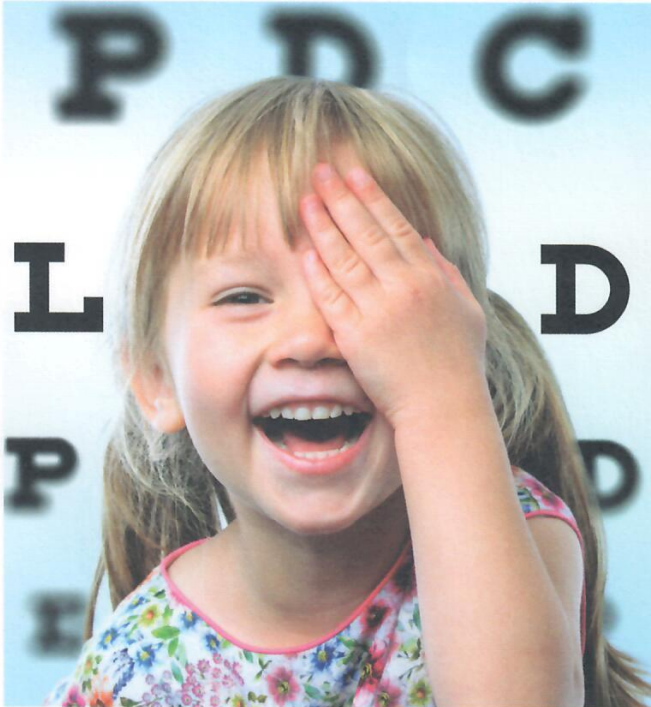


Connecting faith and daily life



Clear vision

Georgina Byrne *reflects on* Acts 1:6-14 and John 17:1-11

Jesus leaves his disciples not once but twice. The first time is the crucifixion. Although he has forewarned them that the end is coming, they scatter in fear, unbelief and grief. After the resurrection, as we have recalled in the last weeks, Jesus spends time with his disciples once more, teaching and encouraging them, only to leave them for a second time at the ascension. On this occasion, they are baffled, but not afraid and not bereft. He has told them to wait for God's promised Holy Spirit and they know that they have his work to do. In John's Gospel Jesus prays to God the Father for his friends' protection as they will be "in the world".

In the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus makes clear what that means, as he speaks directly to the disciples and gives them a mission. They are to continue his ministry and share his wide vision for the whole world – from Jerusalem, through Judea and Samaria and away to the ends of the earth. It is important to note that Jesus does not give detailed instructions of how they are to do this. There is no one-size-fits-all method for sharing God's love – as the rest of the accounts in the Acts of the Apostles bear witness. We learn three things from Jesus from today's readings: that he loves his followers and prays to the Father for us; that he longs for the whole world to know the love of God; and that he calls on his followers to carry on that vision. 🙏

Show us today, Lord God, how you are calling us to carry on your vision. Inspire us through the stories of those who heard your calling two thousand years ago, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

John and Charles Wesley

by Caroline Hodgson

The Wesley brothers are commemorated in the *Common Worship* lectionary on Wednesday this week.

It started at Oxford University in 1729 with the formation of the Holy Club. The older brother John (1703-1791), is known for his itinerant preaching and tireless work forming and organising Christian groups, known as societies. He appointed evangelists – both women and men – to spread the word. Under his direction, Methodists became

leaders in many social issues of the day, including the abolition of slavery and prison reform.

His brother Charles (1707-1788) was a prolific hymn writer, whose powerful imagery and beautiful poetry can be heard in chapels, churches and cathedrals around the world.

For me, the really astonishing thing about these extraordinary, dynamic brothers is that, despite rocking the boat, they are responsible for shaping so much of our worship today, and their influence can be felt at the very heart of the established Church. 🙏

“He left His Father's throne above, / So free, so infinite His grace; / Emptied Himself of all but love, / And bled for Adam's helpless race; / 'Tis mercy all, immense and free; / For, O my God, it found out me.”

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), leader of the Methodist movement and hymn writer

Science and faith

Part 3 – healing and medicine

by Caroline Hodgson

The history of Western medical science is tightly interwoven with the history of the Christian faith. Indeed, for centuries no distinction was made between theology and science. To study the physical universe and everything in it, was to study God and divine creation. It's not by any means an easy relationship. Christianity and medicine have often clashed over ethical issues, particularly where the sanctity of life is concerned.

In obedience to Christ's command to cure the sick, many Christians have been involved in the physical welfare of their fellow human beings. Many modern healthcare, teaching and research institutions have Christian origins, particularly those founded by religious orders. The Christian contribution to medicine is huge, and advances in all branches of medicine have been made by Christians. Inventions ranging from the stethoscope to the cochlear implant have improved the quality of life and saved the lives of countless people. 🙏

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 21st May

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Reverend Roger Gisborne. The stewards are Tina Wise and Jean Peck. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 28 th May	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Mr Peter Ellis
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: 21st – 27th May: 1 Chronicles 13 - 2 Chronicles 3 and John 7 – 10:23

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.

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.

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)