

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 28th January

Good morning and welcome to our Local Arrangement service which is being taken by members of our congregation. The stewards today are Pat and Brian Dryden. Please join us in the hall after the service for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

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| Sunday 4 th February | 10.45 am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Peter McNeill |
| Sunday 11 th February | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mrs Joyce Wild |
| Friday 16 th February | 10.00am | Mark Kimber available for chat in the Okeford Room |
| Saturday 17 th February | 2.30 pm | Church social afternoon of fun and games, with light refreshments – further details below |
| Sunday 18 th February | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant |
| Friday 23 rd February | 2.30 pm | Church Council meeting |
| Sunday 25 th February | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mr Brian Skelley |
| Sunday 3 rd March | 10.45 am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Deborah Cornish |
| Sunday 10 th March | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight |
| Sunday 17 th March | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mrs Diana Middleditch |
| Sunday 24 th March | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mrs Joyce Wild |
| Thursday 28 th March | 7.00 pm | Maundy Thursday: Service at Colehill Methodist |
| Friday 29 th March | 11.00 am | Good Friday: Service at Blandford Methodist to be led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber |
| Sunday 31 st March | 10.45 am | Easter Sunday: Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber (<i>start of British Summer Time</i>) |
| Sunday 19 th May | 10.45 am | Church Anniversary led by Reverend David Vincent, followed by lunch in the hall |

Colehill Methodist: Every Monday, 11.00 am to 12.00 noon(ish), Bible Study, coffee, prayers and plenty of chat. All welcome.

Bible in a year: 28th January – 3rd February: Exodus 19 – 33 and Matthew 18:21 – 22:22

Meet Reverend Dr Mark Kimber: Mark will be available in the Okeford Room from 10.00 am to 11.00 am on the third Friday of each month should you wish to have a chat with him: 16th February, 22nd March and 19th April.

Reverend Andrew Pottage: In agreement with the Chair of District, Reverend Andrew Pottage has been on compassionate leave since the end of October and this continues for the time being. Andrew's wife, Laura, continues to receive treatment for cancer and we ask you to continue to hold the family in your prayers – thank you. The Circuit are grateful for the ongoing support from ordained and lay colleagues and the oversight of Andrew's churches will continue through the ministry of Reverend Peter McNeill. The Reverend Nick Wood, as Deputy Superintendent, will continue to be available for any urgent Circuit matters.

Church Council meeting, 23rd February 2024: The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for 23rd February at 2.30 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*

Church Social Afternoon, 17th February: Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and laughter on Saturday 17th February from 2.30 pm when Mr Alan Dymond will be hosting an indoor boules competition on his own home-made indoor professional standard pétanque pitch. There will be easy table games to play as well. No experience is necessary, although the ability to enjoy a laugh and a bit of fun is essential! During the afternoon, light refreshments will be served. A donation of £3 towards the cost of the refreshments will be appreciated. A sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church for you to book your place. Please indicate on the form if you have any dietary requirements. We would appreciate it if names could be added to the list no later than Sunday 11th February to assist us with our catering. If you are able to pay when signing up, it will be a great help. Family and friends are also very welcome. *Margaret Cornish*

Woodlands Methodist: Worship for You, Sunday 11th February, 6.00 pm led by Reverend Deborah Cornish.

Woodlands Methodist: Quiz Night, Friday 23rd February, 7.30 pm in Woodlands Village Hall. Further details on poster in hall.

Crowe Hill: Services for Healing and Renewal – Reflective services with a Christian Healing Ministry and the opportunity for personal prayer. Dates for January to June can be found on the poster in the hall.

Proposed Ascension Day Service: It has been suggested that on Thursday May 9th at 6.30 pm the Circuit comes together for an Ascension Day Service. This will be an open-air service at a suitable central venue, possibly in or close to Ringwood (if the weather is inclement, it will take place in a church). Before the service at 6.00 pm you are invited to bring a deckchair and your tea and share fellowship with those gathered.

What a great opportunity to openly profess our faith and witness to those in the vicinity this would be. Further down the line we will be looking for musicians, singers, and readers but initially we would like to know if there would be support from the congregations for this venture. If you wish to attend, or take part, then please let John Cornish know before Sunday 3rd March. *John Cornish*

Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar:

Dear All: We're sorry this email is a bit late (we've been very busy so far this year!), but we wanted to thank you so much for your contribution to our Reverse Advent Calendar collection at Christmas - it made a huge difference to so many local people. In particular, and with your support, we were able to give Christmas Goodie Bags, all filled with items from the Reverse Advent Calendar, to 114 local families nominated by schools and pre-schools in Blandford and the surrounding villages. These were all very gratefully received!

Heidi & Team (Heidi Roberts, Deputy Manager)

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

Jam/marmalade Squash Rice pudding

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

Coffee (small jars) Tinned carrots Tinned green beans

Washing-up liquid

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 remember 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).

Minister: Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

Enquiries via Lead Steward, John Cornish, on 07799 516 735

Pastoral Support: Joyce Wild: Tel: 01258 454091