



Exorcism of the Gerasene Demoniac, by Carl and Franz Jöstl, Votivkirche, Vienna

Best left alone?

Heather Smith *reflects on* Luke 8:26-39

If you've ever embarked on a small alteration to your home, you might know how the work can quickly spiral. Perhaps you just want to move a few electrical sockets, but you don't want the wiring to be visible, so you end up with patches of plaster on the wall. Now you have to do some painting, but you can't match the existing colour, so you have to paint the whole room – and you end up wishing you'd just left the sockets where they were.

Things were pretty bad for the Gerasene demoniac. His problems (or demons) were legion. But even though Jesus had tried to heal him, he screamed to be left alone. No matter how bad things are, sometimes it seems safer not to make any changes.

The demonic's problems were making things difficult for others, too. He had to be kept under guard and shackled, but sometimes he even managed to escape his chains. In the end, the solution was to send the demons into a herd of pigs, where they made things so difficult that the pigs ran off a cliff and drowned. This in turn made things difficult for the swineherds, who were both unhappy and extremely frightened.

So was it all worth it? Everyone had quite an experience and some valuable pigs were lost. But a suffering and excluded man was returned, healthy, to his community. 🙏

God, your healing in our lives is worth any amount of trouble and upheaval, even when it seems less disruptive and easier to leave things as they are. Teach us to accept and embrace your healing. Amen.



Book review

by Julia McGuinness

Julia McGuinness looks at *Sacred Rhythms*, by Ruth Hayley Barton (IVP Books, 2006).

What does a Christian do when beneath the busy-ness of church, family and work life, an underlying unsatisfied hunger for God remains? This is the question the author faced.

Weary with striving and activity, she set about rearranging her life around core spiritual disciplines, reflecting monastic tradition by creating a "rule of life". This was less about achieving holiness, more about making space for God's transforming presence.

Sacred Rhythms introduces us to the practice of seven spiritual disciplines – from solitude to sabbath, prayer to honouring the body – followed by guidance on how to develop a rule of life for ourselves. Each chapter presents a discipline through the author's encounter with it. She shows what it might look like in practical everyday living, with examples from her own life and concluding with suggestions for us to try. The author stresses the importance of being real about what our hearts most long for in our relationship with God. She is engaging and honest in this down-to-earth book that makes traditional Christian disciplines accessible to our everyday lives. 🙏

Walking with Rosie

God all around

by Gillian Cooper

Rosie and I are on holiday in Orkney, where the days are long and bright, and our hosts warm and welcoming. Our walks take us along springy grass paths to windswept beaches. The sea is turquoise, birds swoop and swim, and seals pop up their heads to greet us. Of course, our walks also take us to coffee, cake and dog biscuits.

In Orkney, faith seems easy, almost inevitable. God is in the rocks and in the moorland, in the ancient remains of mysterious long-ago people, in the clear soft light and the reflections on the lochs, in the skill of the craftspeople and in the stories and traditions of the islands. The benign spirit of St Magnus hovers over the pilgrims who walk his Way to the magnificent cathedral that bears his name. Here I rejoice to find myself effortlessly in the presence of God. 🙏

“Tears shed for self are tears of weakness, but tears shed for others are a sign of strength.”

Billy Graham (1918-2018), evangelist

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 22nd June

Good morning and welcome to our Local Arrangement Service which is being taken by members of the congregation. The steward today is Jean Peck and thank you to Jean for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 29 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber followed by General Church Meeting in the hall
Sunday 6 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Andrew Pottage
Sunday 13 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight
Sunday 20 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Keith Beckingham
Sunday 27 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Priestley
Sunday 3 rd August	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Peter McNeill
Sunday 10 th August	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 17 th August	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Miss Liz Ward
Sunday 24 th August	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Peter McNeill
Sunday 31 st August	10.45 am	Ecumenical Service at BMC hosted by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

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: 22nd – 28th June: Esther 6 – Job 13 and Acts 6 – 9:21

Meet Reverend Dr Mark Kimber: Most Fridays Mark will be available in the Okeford Room from 10.00 am to 11.00 am for anyone who wishes to have a chat with him. However, on the third Friday of each month there will be a session entitled '**Meeting with Mark**' to which you are cordially invited.

Could all **Mission in Britain** boxes be with Joyce no later than Sunday 29th June.

Lunch Club Summertime Get Togethers: Looking for a chance to stay connected over the summer whilst Lunch Club is on a summer break? Reverend Mark – along with a few friendly helpers – will be hosting relaxed lunchtime gatherings filled with good conversation, fun, and maybe even a quiz or activity! **Bring your own picnic lunch** We'll provide drinks, biscuits, and (if you're lucky) some cake! **Fridays 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm**

- 18 July
- 15 August

Come along for a friendly catch-up and a bit of summer cheer. Everyone welcome!

Reverend Mark Kimber

BMC Church Council Membership – Expression of Interest: If you are a member of Blandford Methodist Church and feel called and able to serve on the Church Council from September 2025, please speak to John Cornish or Reverend Mark to confirm your interest by 22nd June 2025. Your willingness to serve is greatly valued as we discern the future direction of our church together, and make things happen.

Becoming a Member of BMC: If you are interested in becoming a member of Blandford Methodist Church, please speak with Reverend Mark. He would be delighted to talk with you about what church membership means and how to take this next step in your journey of faith.

Light and life, Mark

Sunday 29th June 2025, BMC General Church Meeting following the morning service: All members and friends are warmly invited!

We will gather in worship, taking time to reflect on the past year and prayerfully consider where God may be leading us in the year ahead.

Please come prepared to share or reflect on:

- A significant moment in your faith journey this past year
- Highlights from our church life and community
- Where God might be calling us to serve together in the year ahead

After worship: Please bring a picnic lunch to enjoy together. We will:

- Hear a brief financial summary
- Confirm our stewards and Church Council members (from September)
- Share in an open conversation about the future ministry and witness of our Church

Let us come together with thankful hearts and hopeful vision.

Charities for 2025/2026: Please don't forget to consider which charities you would like the church to support from September 2025. Any suggestions should be brought forward at the General Church Meeting next Sunday.

Circuit Pentecost picnic and informal service on Wednesday 25th June 2025 at 6.00 pm on the lawn at Holtwood Methodist Church. The picnic will be from 5.00 pm. Please bring your picnic and a chair. If wet this will take place in the hall.

Summer concert by Colehill Community Choir at St Michael's Church, Colehill, Saturday 5th July 7.30 pm in Aid of Prama Life.

Woodlands Methodist: "Worship for You", 13th July, led by Mr Martyn Cubitt. Details on the poster in the hall.

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 11.4.25) – Coffee, Squash, Cereal, Tinned Sweetcorn, Toothpaste. Any other donations of food or household goods are also welcomed. 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 we know are ill or suffering in some way.

Can we particularly remember those of our congregation who are helping family members through illness, and those who are in hospital.

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