

Heather Smith  
*reflects on* Psalm 82

The psalmist pleads for God to give justice to and rescue those who are weak, orphaned and needy – words which could be written today. Weak and needy people are scattered across the world, in our own country and all around the earth. Journalists bring us their stories and their photographs appear on our screens, showing us the misery that is inflicted on those who are powerless.

It's tempting to close our minds to all this suffering. What can we do? How can we choose which cause to support and how to work for justice? But while it seems too big for our small minds, nothing is too big for God. "For all the nations belong to you!" says the psalmist. Surely God is concerned for the fate of each and every person on earth.

St Teresa of Avila understood the frustration and helplessness we feel when faced with such enormous need. "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you," she said. "Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people."

We have a responsibility to do something. And whatever we do demonstrates God's love. The difference we make, no matter how small, is God's work. 🌈



God of Love, teach us to work unceasingly for justice and to show your compassion to all, especially to those who suffer at the hands of the powerful. Amen.

## Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

It's harvest time on this smallholding, though harvesting goes on in other ways throughout the year, as things become ready to gather for eating. Tomatoes and courgettes threaten to overwhelm us unless we give lots away, so we do exactly that. The blueberries, loganberries and blackberries are shared with blackbirds, initially a bit unwillingly, then when everything is about to inundate us I'm glad to share again.

This month begins with Lammas. As a Christian festival it's when the first grain to be harvested is traditionally made into a loaf for Eucharist. In deeper history it harks back to pre-Christian times which we can share with our neighbours who walk a different path of faith.

Thankfulness is part of all faiths and of the lives of all people of goodwill. So in this time of sharing I thank God and Mother Nature for what is given to be shared out. 🌈

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.”

Philippians 1:3-4

## Make the most of the summer *Creating community*

by Heather Smith

Summer is a time not only for holidays, but also for carnivals, festivals and fetes. Given how much effort and hard work they take to organise, you might be wondering why this topic is included in a series about holidays, which should be all about rest and relaxation. The complete change of focus from everyday activities might confirm the notion that "a change is as good as a rest".

But more than that, these summer celebrations, with the need to work together, go a long way towards improving our sense of community. We are social beings. So often we find ourselves fulfilling different roles and building different kinds of relationships in the various groups with whom we interact. It helps us to find out more about ourselves and to fulfil our true potential. But we should not forget to include those who are lonely or generally excluded. It can be hard to see everyone enjoying the benefits of community if you aren't included. 🌈

## **Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August**

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Miss Liz Ward. The stewards today are John Cornish and Elizabeth Boyd. Thank you to Margaret for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

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

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Peter McNeill
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	10.45 am	Ecumenical Service at BMC hosted by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Helen Beckingham
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Miss Liz Ward
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	10.45 am	<b>Harvest Festival Service</b> led by Reverend Keith Beckingham, 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. **PLEASE NOTE: NO BIBLE STUDY ON 18th AND 25th AUGUST**

**Circuit prayers:** First Saturday of every month at 8.30 am at Holtwood Methodist Church.

**Bible in a year:** 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August: Psalms 79 – 96 and Romans 11 - 15

**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.

**Save the dates – Church Social Afternoons:** We are looking forward to holding three afternoons of fun and friendship:

August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2.30 pm – an afternoon of simple, hilarious table-top games, followed by a high tea

September 20<sup>th</sup> from 2.30 pm – indoor boules plus fun quizzes followed by a French-style buffet

October 25<sup>th</sup> from 1.00 pm – a curry lunch with games and quizzes

There will be a small cost of £3 per head per afternoon. Places are limited, so please sign up by 3<sup>rd</sup> August if possible for our first afternoon of fun.

**George Greensmith:** George's funeral will be held at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August at Poole Crematorium, Gravel Hill, Broadstone.

**Circuit News:** There will be a "Circuit Welcome Service" for Reverend Susan Baker-Maher and Reverend Dr Mark Kimber at Trinity Church, Ringwood, on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September. All will be welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served at 6.45 pm followed by the Service at 7.30 pm.

*John Cornish*

**Preaching Plan:** Something for you all to think about is the Preaching Plan for December, January and February. If you have any requests for a particular preacher, then please let me know before Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you.

*John Cornish*

**Colehill Methodist:** Their next coffee morning will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, from 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. All welcome.

**Woodlands Methodist:** "Worship for You", September 14<sup>th</sup>, 6.00 pm, led by Mr Colin Besant. Details on poster in hall.

**Blandford Foodbank is urgently** in need of (updated 8.8.25) –Cereal, Jam/ marmalade, Tea bags 40, Coffee, Tinned fruit, Tinned meat, Tinned tomatoes, Tinned fish, Tinned rice pudding. 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*

**Milford on Sea Methodist:** Come and join us for a strawberry cream tea on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August. 3.00 pm – 4.00 pm. £8 per person, payable on the day. For further details see poster in the hall.

**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 anxiety and also remember those who have recently been bereaved.

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