

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 25th January

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Miss Liz Ward. The stewards today are Christine Lydford and Joyce Wild. Thank you to Joyce for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 1 st February	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 8 th February	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 15 th February	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by a representative from Safe Families (one of our charities)
Sunday 22 nd February	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Brian Skelley

Today's readings: Psalm 1 (page 543)

and below: 1 Corinthians 1: vv 10-21, taken from The Message

10 I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I'll put it as urgently as I can: You *must* get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.

11-12 I bring this up because some from Chloe's family brought a most disturbing report to my attention—that you're fighting among yourselves! I'll tell you exactly what I was told: You're all picking sides, going around saying, "I'm on Paul's side," or "I'm for Apollos," or "Peter is my man," or "I'm in the Messiah group."

13-16 I ask you, "Has the Messiah been chopped up in little pieces so we can each have a relic all our own? Was Paul crucified for you? Was a single one of you baptized in Paul's name?" I was not involved with any of your baptisms—except for Crispus and Gaius—and on getting this report, I'm sure glad I wasn't. At least no one can go around saying he was baptized in my name. (Come to think of it, I also baptized Stephanas's family, but as far as I can recall, that's it.)

17 God didn't send me out to collect a following for myself, but to preach the Message of what he has done, collecting a following for him. And he didn't send me to do it with a lot of fancy rhetoric of my own, lest the powerful action at the centre—Christ on the Cross—be trivialized into mere words.

18-21 The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written,

I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as shams.

So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered stupid—*preaching*, of all things! — to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

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

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

Bible in a year: 25th – 31st January: Exodus 12 – 26 and Matthew 16 - 20

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.

Our GDPR Consent Forms: It's that time of year when we all need to renew our consent for the Church to hold our personal data for GDPR purposes. In agreement with the Methodist Southern District, the forms have been simplified so they now include only the essential information. The forms are with John, so please ask him for your copy. Please take a moment to read the personal data we currently hold for you, update it where necessary, and then sign and date the consent form and return it to John as soon as possible. Thank you. *John Cornish*

Woodlands Methodist: Worship for You, 8th February, 6.00 pm, led by Revd David Paskins.

Foundation School Church Governor required: Reverend Christopher Beaumont, the Rector at the Parish Church, has said that Archbishop Wake C of E Primary School and Milldown Primary School are looking to appoint a Foundation Church Governor. The person in this role has the responsibility to explore, with their partners on the Governing Body, ways in which the Church's role in the school may be more fully and positively implemented. If anyone from our Church is interested, or may know of someone who might be interested, then please contact Reverend Chris Beaumont through the Parish Centre Phone: 01258 456260

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 20.1.26) – Cereal, Tinned meat, Tinned fish, UHT milk, Deodorant (male and female). 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.

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