

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 8th February

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Colin Besant. The stewards today are Christine Lydford and Margaret and Alan Dymond. Thank you to Angela for playing for us and thank you to Margaret for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 15 th February	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Stu Dendy, a representative from Safe Families (one of our charities)
Sunday 22 nd February	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Brian Skelley
Sunday 1 st March	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Priestley
Sunday 8 th March	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 15 th March	10.45 am	Mothering Sunday: Local arrangement service
Sunday 22 nd March	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Brian Skelley
Sunday 29 th March	10.45 am	Palm Sunday: Ecumenical Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Dr Mark Kimber

Today's readings:

1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 12 (page 1145)
Matthew 5: 13 – 20 (page 969)

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

Please note: there will not be a Bible Study and Fellowship on Monday 9th February.

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

Bible in a year: 8th – 14th February: Leviticus 4 -16 and Matthew 24:29 - 27:26

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.

The following is based on today's lectionary gospel reading and an encouragement to involve everyone in thinking about mission.

Salt and Light - an invitation to reflect further on the gospel passage Matthew 5:13-20 and what it might mean for us to live out Jesus' call to be "*salt of the earth*" and "*light of the world*". Please join the conversation and share your thoughts.

Salt preserves from decay, enhances flavour and purifies

Where do we bring God's flavour?

- What one small, practical thing could we start doing that would help *preserve, heal, or add flavour* to our neighbourhood?

Light reveals what is hidden, guides travellers, and offers warmth and welcome

How do we shine?

- What gets in the way (as individuals or as a church) of us being more visible as people of faith?
- If you were to spot-light just one area in our community where is there a particular need for *light, welcome or hope - where exactly would that be?*
- What simple step could we take to let our light "shine before others" in the coming weeks?

Faithfulness – Walking the Way of Jesus

- What habits or practices help you stay close to Jesus?
- What change - big or small - do you sense God might be asking of us as a Church community?

Please respond - jot down some thoughts, write an email, or draw a picture or and pass it to Joyce, John, or me. I hope that your insights will be a blessing to you, help shape our ongoing mission planning - and help us share more fully in the Circuit conversations about mission.

Light and life, Mark

Dear Lunch Club friends: Lent begins on Wednesday 18th February and I wonder if this year you would like to join myself, Rona, Pat, Brian and David raise money for the church's two chosen local charities, which are Safe Families in Dorset and the Health Bus Trust.

How can I help? you may be asking. Well, could you give an extra £1.00 each Friday on top of the £5.00 you pay for your meal for the five weeks leading up to our Easter Meal on 27th March. This money may come from you giving up something during the week like a cup of coffee, a packet of biscuits or a chocolate bar - you decide.

Please always remember this is a voluntary contribution there is no obligation to give. However, everything donated will be graciously received and will benefit two charities that do excellent work. Thank you in anticipation.

Joyce, Rona, Pat, Brian and David

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

Woodlands Methodist: Quiz night, Friday 27th February, 7.30 pm. Further details on poster in hall.

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 29.1.26) – Cereal, Biscuits, Jam, Marmalade, Tinned meat, 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