Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 15th November

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

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 22nd November	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Rob White
Sunday 29th November	10.45 am	**First Sunday in Advent:** Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Priestley
Sunday 6th December	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revered Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 13th December	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight
Sunday 20th December	10.45 am	**Carol Service** led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 25th December	**10.00 am**	**Christmas Day service at Wimborne Methodist Church**
Sunday 27th December	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend David Miller

Today's readings: 1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 8, and 13

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: 15th – 21st November: Ezekiel 1 – 17 and Hebrews 11 – James 3

Happy birthday to Jean Cornick (18th)

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. And, on the third Friday of each month there will be a session entitled 'Meeting with Mark' to which you are cordially invited.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (COST OF RUNNING THE CHURCH)

Do you know how much it costs to keep Blandford Methodist Church running on a day-to-day basis. No, neither did I until I took on the responsibility of treasurer, a few years ago. Now, I know what you're thinking. Here he goes again with a load of figures, that if I continue to read will help me sleep at night. So, I will try to make it straight forward. Below is a table summarising the church's income and outgoings for the last church year (Sep 2025 to Aug 2026).

INCOME (£)	
Offertory	9,916
Interest	2,971
Lettings	9,075
Gift Aid refund	2,912
Coffee mornings	1,593
Other income	1,940
TOTAL	**28,407**
Other income mainly includes donations	

OUTGOINGS (£)	
Circuit assessment	9,178
Utilities	8,465
Repairs/Maintenance	7,956
Other payments	4,715
TOTAL	**30,314**
Utilities include, gas, electric, water & insurance,	

The above figures do not include Lunch Club or Kurling Club

The above figures show a deficit of £1,907 for the year (£36.50/week or £5.25/day). I expect the deficit for the current year to be much higher, due to future roof repairs.

So, how can you help? I know that there is a 'cost-of-living' crisis in the country and the church is not exempt from these ongoing difficulties. However, as can be seen from the above figures, the financial shortfall could easily be reduced if everybody in the church was to make small increases to their giving. I know that there are many in the church who already contribute generously and the church is most grateful for that ongoing support. Also, I am not asking for anybody to give, who by doing so would find it difficult.

Additionally, there are two things that would be very helpful. If you do not already give by Standing Order, may I ask you to give this some serious consideration. A Standing Order is easy to set up, and it helps both the donor and the church to manage their budgets. Also, if you are a UK taxpayer, and you have not already done so, please consider making a Gift Aid Declaration to the church. This will increase your giving by 25% at no cost to yourself.

In conclusion, thank you for your continuing support, and I look forward to a positive response from you. If you have any questions, I will endeavour to answer them.

David Wild, Treasurer
Blandford Methodist Church

Safeguarding Sunday: In collaboration with Reverend Canon Atkins-Greig, Rachel Bending, the District Chair, has produced a video for Safeguarding Sunday, 15th November. To watch please log on to the following https://www.sdmc.org.uk/news/safeguarding-sunday-video/ *Joyce Wild*

Up-date on progress on Church roof repairs:

- The roofing contractors, Davids of Wimborne, will start repairs in early December.
- Grants: Christchurch and Wimborne Circuit have granted £5,000, Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) have granted £1,500. William Williams Trust declined our request. There are three other Charities that I have researched where we meet their criteria, so plan to apply for grants soon.
- Methodist Insurance refused our claim on the grounds that we did not use "Smart Water" to protect our lead.
- We have now purchased and received "Smart Water" from DeterTech to be used by the roofers whilst the scaffolding is in place.
- As the church is located within a Conservation Area, Blandford Town Council has been informed of the planned work. They have very kindly agreed to arrange the pruning of shrubs in the Woodhouse Gardens alongside the north wall of the church to allow scaffolding to be erected safely.

We would like to thank everyone for their continuing patience, prayers and support as we work to preserve and maintain our Church building for future generations. We will keep you all updated as the project progresses**.** *John Cornish*

Thank you: Many thanks for the donations of carrier bags. I now have sufficient bags to carry all the foodstuffs over to Nourish. *John Cornish*

Church Charities for September 2026 – August 2027: At the October Church Council, we agreed to support two Charities: "Embrace the Middle East" and "WaterAid".
Here is Fakayna's story of how Embrace the Middle East has helped her.

"My greatest desire was simply to learn how to read, so I'd be able to find my way if I went somewhere unfamiliar, read my own name at the hospital, and not remain illiterate. My days are always very busy because we are farmers and have land to cultivate. I hardly have any free time… but I really wanted to learn. I was afraid I wouldn't be able to attend the school, but my husband encouraged and supported me. I wake up early, go to the fields, finish my work, return home, and then go to the Life School. After school, if there's more work to do in the fields, I go back; otherwise, I continue with my household responsibilities." Like many women in rural Egypt, 39-year-old Fukayna was not given the chance to complete her education as a child.

When Embrace partner, Think & Do, launched their literacy and numeracy classes through the Life School's project near Fukayna's village, she was determined to join. *Continued . . .*

Learning to read and add up are not just academic achievements; they are literally life changing. Before attending the Life School, Fukayna had years of navigating a world where she couldn't check the instructions on a medicine packet, couldn't read documents she was signing, didn't know if she was given the correct change for her purchases.

Literacy levels for women in many rural communities in upper Egypt remain low, meaning many women face isolation, limited opportunities and even exploitation. For Fukayna, attending Life School has not only helped her overcome these barriers but has opened up lots of new possibilities.

John Cornish

You're Invited to Our Nourish Open Day!

Come and join us at **Nourish Blandford Foodbank** on **Thursday 19 November, 11am-1pm**.
This is a great opportunity to see what we do, meet our team and volunteers, and experience the friendly atmosphere that makes Nourish such a special place in our community.
We'll have: Homemade food: Donated pastries: Hot and cold drinks
Whether you're interested in learning more about our services, finding out how you can get involved, or simply enjoying a cuppa and a chat, we'd love to welcome you.
Date: 19 November
Time: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm
Venue: Nourish Blandford Foodbank, United Reformed Church, Salisbury Street, Blandford Forum DT11 7PY
Come along, have a look around, and discover how Nourish is supporting local people with food, friendship, and practical help.
Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you there. 💚

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 11.11.26) –
Cereal, Coffee, Pasta Sauce, Rice Pudding, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Tomatoes, UHT Milk. Other donations of food or household goods also welcomed. For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point.

Prayer: Please can we remember to uphold in prayer those members of our congregation we know are ill or suffering in some way. Also, remember in prayer those members of our church who are finding things difficult and stressful at this time.

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