Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 22nd November

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Rob White. The stewards today are John Cornish and Brian and Pat Dryden. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

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 followed by light refreshments
Sunday 20th December	4.00 pm	Carol Service at Wimborne Methodist Church
Thursday 24th December	9.15 pm	Christmas Eve service at Colehill Methodist Church
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
Sunday 17th January	10.45 am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

Today's readings: Ephesians Chapter 1 verses 15 to 23
Matthew Chapter 25 verses 31 to 46

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: 22nd – 28th November: Ezekiel 18 – 34 and James 4 – 1 Peter 5

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.

"Darkness to Light": November's fifth Sunday of the month's ecumenical united service is on Sunday 29th November at the Parish Church at 5.00 pm.
Let's take some time to reflect and celebrate together with the wider Christian family as we travel through the Advent season.
Let me know if you are going to be there. Light and Life. *Mark Kimber*

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

Church Council: Following our recent Church Council meeting, the various reports, Minutes, etc., can be found in the Church Council file which is held in the Vestry. Please speak to either John or Joyce if you would like to read the various reports and Minutes, etc.

Colehill Methodist: Coffee Morning, Saturday 5th December, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. Various stalls, including 'Christmas Have a Go'. All welcome.

Woodlands Methodist: Carol Service, Sunday 13th December, 6.00 pm, led by Reverend Keith Beckingham with the Verwood Brass Band. Further details on poster in hall.

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