

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 19th March (4th in Lent)

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Morning Worship on Mothering Sunday. Today's service should have been led by Reverend Peter McNeill, but unfortunately he is ill, so at very short notice, the service is being led by Mr Rob White: thank you, Rob. The stewards today are John Cornish and Pat and Brian Dryden. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 20 th March	11.00 am	Lent Bible Study, Colehill Methodist
Sunday 26 th March	10.45 am	Café Church
Sunday 14 th May	10.45 am	Church Anniversary led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen, followed by lunch in the hall
Saturday 1 st April	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
Sunday 9 th April	10.45 am	Easter Sunday service led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Sunday 30 th April	10.30 am	Ecumenical service, Blandford Camp
Sunday 16 th July:	10.45 am	Pauline's final service at Blandford Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 23 rd July:	4.30 pm	Leaving Service for Reverend Pauline Crispin at Trinity Church, Ringwood
Sunday 24 th September	10.45 am	Harvest festival service led by Reverend Nick Wood from Verwood Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall

Bible in a year: 19th – 25th March: Joshua 1 – 21 and Mark 16 – Luke 2

Lent Bible Studies: These will take place on Mondays at 11.00 am at Colehill Methodist. Each study can stand alone, so if you cannot come to them all, you are most welcome to join for as many or as few as you are able. These gatherings are incredibly 'user friendly' and informal, sharing over a 'cuppa!'

20th March: Led by Joyce Wild

27th March: Heart 2 heart: sorrow and joy – led by Colin Besant

3rd April: Bound in love and sacrifice – led by Colin Besant and Joyce Wild

Reverend Linda Chester: As you may have read in Reverend Pauline Crispin's Sabbatical letter, the Reverend Linda Chester was to have had pastoral oversight of Colehill and Blandford Methodist Churches. Since Pauline's letter was published, the Reverend Linda Chester has asked to step back from this duty. Her request has been accepted. To move

forward with a plan, Joyce Wild has had discussions on this matter with Reverend Nick Wood who is acting Superintendent whilst Pauline is on her Sabbatical and annual leave. Resulting from that meeting, Joyce will continue in her role with full pastoral oversight of the church and will be the main point of contact during Pauline's Sabbatical in all matters relating to the church. However, if we absolutely need a minister in that period, then Joyce will call on Reverend Nick Wood to assist.



Café Church - *Discover the difference !*

On Sunday 26th March our morning service will be using a rather different style of worship. We will gather around coffee tables for light refreshments, and then have an introduction, a hymn and a bible reading.

For the next half-an-hour we will explore the bible reading through a choice of either discussion or quiet reflection or creative activities. A variety of suggestions and resources will be available to inspire our explorations, and you should be able to spend some time in at least two of these different approaches to worship.

Finally, back together at the coffee tables, there will be opportunity for anyone to share something from their 'explorations', before the service concludes with further prayers and hymns. This may sound a little strange for Sunday morning, but a good number of other Methodist Churches are finding that this style of occasional service can be refreshing and enjoyable. We hope you will come and give it a try!

Reverend David Vincent (*Wimborne*)

Leaving gift for Pauline: Though it is a few months yet until our Minister and Superintendent, Reverend Pauline Crispin, leaves us for pastures new, it would be good whilst she is on Sabbatical to begin thinking about a gift from our church which will form part of her leaving present. If you would like to make a personal monetary gift, please pass this to Joyce before the end of May, and if you have any suggestions for a gift, please let Joyce know.

Church Anniversary lunch: Following our Church Anniversary service on the 14th May, we hope you will join us for a church family lunch. Lunch will consist of quiches (vegetarian), Spanakopita, with an option to also choose Salmon en Croute, all served with new potatoes, side salad and green salad with tomatoes and cucumber. This will be followed by Eve's Pudding and custard and tea, coffee and mints.

The cost of the meal will be £6 per person (£2.50 for under 10s). Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to assist us with our catering. If you are able to pay when signing up, it will be a great help.

Catering Committee

Ecumenical Service: The next ecumenical service will be held on 30th April at Blandford Camp. This will be a "first" for Blandford's ecumenical services. To comply with Camp security, nearer the time those wishing to attend will need to sign the "sign-up" sheet in the Narthex

so that John can pass names on to Padre Ken. Volunteers will also be needed to welcome and assist with refreshments. Padre Ken has said that he is expecting a congregation of about 200 to attend, made up of people at the Camp and from the churches in Blandford. Further details will follow nearer the time.

John Cornish

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of -

Deodorant	Tinned fruit	Tinned vegetables
Coffee	Squash/Fruit juice	

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

Porridge	Tinned meat	Tinned soup	Jam/marmalade
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste	Bars of soap	Rice pudding
Shampoo	Tea Bags	Toilet roll	

For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point.

John Cornish

Band Concert: Although this is not specifically a church event, you may be interested in this band concert of popular music, taking place at Barton on Saturday 15th April. The leader/conductor of the band is Rob White's son, Michael, and Rob's wife, Sharon, plays in the band as does another member of Barton church. If you are interested, please see the poster in the hall for further details.

Prayer: Please can we continue to uphold in prayer those members of our congregation who 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).

As Reverend Pauline Crispin is currently on sabbatical, for any immediate problems and concerns, please contact Joyce Wild in the first instance.

Minister:

Reverend Pauline Crispin

Pastoral Support:

Joyce Wild: (Tel: 01258 454091)