



## **Blandford Methodist Church: Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Easter Sunday service which is being led by Mrs Joyce Wild. The stewards today are Tina Wise and Jean Peck. Thank you to Angela Walden for playing for us and thank you to Angela and Margaret for the flowers.

**Please note there will be no refreshments after today's service.**

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### **Dates for your diary:**

Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00 am	Church working party – see below
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Mr Brian Sturtridge
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Mrs Diana Middleditch
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 am	Ecumenical service, Blandford Camp – see below
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	6.00 pm	“Going Deeper”, monthly meeting of prayer, worship and ministry at the Parish Church (first Sunday in each month)
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	10.45 am	Church Anniversary led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July:	10.45 am	Pauline's final service at Blandford Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July:	4.30 pm	Leaving Service for Reverend Pauline Crispin at Trinity Church, Ringwood
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	10.45 am	Harvest festival service led by Reverend Nick Wood from Verwood Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall

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**Bible in a year:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April: 1 Samuel 13 – 29 and Luke 10 – 13:22

**Church Working Party:** The Property Stewards have arranged for a working party to meet on the 15th April from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. This is to explore the loft, cellar, storeroom and vestry to decide what items on the premises must remain (for a purpose), or be sold, or be dumped. We need a few people to assist with this tidying up work. If you are able to help, then please let either John or Joyce know.

**Good news:** The exciting news just keeps on coming. Firstly, on Thursday 16th March I was able to tell you about the Reverend Deborah Cornish who, through stationing, was matched with Wimborne and who will begin her role in September on a part time basis. Secondly, Reverend Dr Mark Kimber, at present a minister without appointment, has agreed after consultations with Colehill and Blandford to be their minister from September for four sessions a week. These sessions will be shared equally between the two churches.

Thirdly, to assist the new superintendent Reverend Andrew Pottage, instead of the two lay persons posts we originally thought were needed we now have Reverend Peter McNeill, a supernumerary minister who, in a Team Ministry alongside the new superintendent on a part time basis, will have pastoral responsibility for Highcliffe and Mudeford Lane.

They say things come in threes and that is exactly what has happened. These posts will have no effect on the budget or assessments.

God is good and we thank him for sending these Ministers to us. We look forward to exciting times ahead sharing the gospel message. Hallelujah.

*Joyce Wild (Lead Steward)*

**Church Anniversary lunch:** Following our Church Anniversary service on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, we hope you will join us for a church family lunch. Lunch will consist of home cooked ham, Spanakopita, and 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 30<sup>th</sup> April at Blandford Camp. This will be a "first" for Blandford's ecumenical services. To comply with Camp security, if you wish to attend please add your full name to the "sign-up" sheet (which can be found in the Narthex), so that names can be passed on to the Reverend (Major) Ken Adolphe at the camp. Volunteers will also be needed to welcome and assist with refreshments. You will need to take some form of photographic ID (such as a driving licence, bus pass, passport) with you. We have been advised that you will need to **arrive at the camp gates by 9.45 am** for the 10.30 am service (for security reasons). I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join in this service. Should anyone wish to attend and need a lift to the camp, please let me know.

*John Cornish*

**Methodist Women in Britain – Easter Offering Service:** The Easter Offering Envelopes (which were available last Sunday as well as today) are a means for the congregation to give donations to The World Mission Fund. This fund supports mission partners in 65 partner churches outside Britain and Ireland. The money is used in diverse ways to include mission appointments and scholarship and leadership training. The Easter Offering Service this year is to be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 4.00 pm for tea at Verwood Methodist Church, followed by the service at 5.00 pm. All are welcome at this service.

*Glenda Sidding*

**Foodbank Vacancy:** Blandford Foodbank is advertising for a permanent Debt Advisor to support their clients. The expectation is for 10-15 hours per week, based at Blandford URC, with a salary of £12/hour. If you know of someone who is willing to apply, then please ask and I will provide more details.

*John Cornish*

**Blandford Foodbank** is urgently in need of -

Tinned fruit      Tinned vegetables  
Coffee              Squash/Fruit juice

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

Tinned meat      Tinned soup      Jam/marmalade  
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*

**Blandford News:** The Parish Church has completed its recent Alpha Training Course with a few coming to know the Lord and acknowledging Him as their Saviour.

The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby will be attending a service at the Parish Church later this year. I'll keep you posted.

The Parish Church has organised a monthly gathering of prayer, worship and ministry for Christians in Blandford Forum. They have called it "Going Deeper" a "filling station" type event. This is open to all and everyone is invited and will be held on the first Sunday in the month from 6.00 pm at the Parish Church. Please feel free to join in.

Planning for the Joint Service at the Blandford Army Camp on Sunday 30th April is in full swing. Please let me know if you are willing to help with refreshments after the service.

Thank you.

*John Cornish*

**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)