

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 20th August

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Colin Besant. The stewards today are John Cornish and Joyce Wild. Thank you to Joyce for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for lunch.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 27 th August	10.45 am	Local Arrangement service led by members of the congregation
Sunday 3 rd September	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Miss Elizabeth Ward
Sunday 10 th September	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber with Holy Communion
Sunday 10 th September	3.00 pm	Welcome Service at Barton on Sea - see below
Friday 15 th September	11.15 am	Coffee and chat to meet Reverend Dr Mark Kimber on an informal basis in Okeford Room
Sunday 17 th September	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Sunday 24 th September	10.45 am	Harvest Festival service led by Reverend Nick Wood from Verwood Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 8 th October	10.45 am	Café Church led by Reverend David Vincent
Tuesday 24 th October	7.00 pm	Church Council meeting in Okeford Room
Sunday 29 th October	10.30 am	United Church Service, to be hosted by Blandford Methodist Church
Sunday 3 rd December	3.00 pm	Salvation Army Carol Service
Saturday 9 th December	5.00 pm	Carols on the Green
Sunday 24 th December	10.00 pm	Christmas Eve service to be held at Colehill Methodist – all are invited
Monday 25 th December	9.45 am	Christmas Day service to be held at Blandford Methodist

Bible in a year: 20th – 26th August: Psalms 105 – 176 and 1 Corinthians 3 - 8

Ride and Stride: The annual Ride and Stride in aid of Dorset Historic Churches Trust will take place on Saturday 9th September 2023. The church will be open from 10.00 am – 6.00 pm on that day so that we can welcome the riders and striders, offering them refreshments and use of the toilet facilities and signing their sponsor sheet. **We are now looking for volunteers to undertake that task.** If you can offer just one hour that would be fantastic so if you are able to help, please sign up on the rota sheet in the Narthex. For those who wish to participate as a Rider or Strider please speak to Joyce who has the necessary sponsor forms. *Joyce Wild*

Harvest Festival Service: Our Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 24th September, and we do hope you will be able to join us for that service which will be led by Reverend Nick Wood, Minister of Verwood Methodist.

To make the church look suitably festive for the occasion, we would like volunteers to meet at the church on Saturday 23rd September at 10.00 am to help decorate the church. If you feel able to help, please have a word with Joyce.

All tins and packets received for the foodbank between now and harvest, will be kept at church for our harvest display.

On Sunday 24th September, the morning service will be followed by a Harvest Lunch in the hall. We will enjoy a cooked lunch of a chicken pie, potatoes, carrots, peas and cauliflower (vegetarian option available if requested), followed by apple crumble and custard. The cost for lunch will be £5. We do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us for Harvest, and a sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church for you to book your place for the Harvest Lunch. Please indicate on the form if you have any dietary requirements. We would appreciate it if names could be added to the list no later than 10th September to assist us with our catering. If you are able to pay for your lunch when signing up, it will be a great help.

Welcome Service: A Welcome Service for new Circuit Ministers will be held at Barton Methodist Church, Cliffe Road, Barton on Sea, BH25 7PA, at 3.00 pm on Sunday 10th September. We will be welcoming:

- Reverend Andrew Pottage who will be the new Superintendent Minister of this Circuit, with pastoral charge of Barton, Highcliffe, Mundeford Lane and Milford on Sea Methodist Churches.
- Reverend Deborah Cornish who will have pastoral charge of Wimborne Methodist Church.
- Reverend Dr Mark Kimber who will have pastoral charge of Blandford and Colehill Methodist Churches.
- Reverend Peter McNeill who will share the pastoral care of Highcliffe and Mundeford Lane Methodist Churches in a team ministry with Revd Andrew Pottage

It would be lovely to serve a selection of sweet/savoury nibbles to those attending the above service with offers to provide such items coming from all the churches in the Circuit. If anyone can make gluten or dairy free items that would be a bonus. Cakes should be pre-cut, and all items delivered by 2.30 pm on the day. If you are willing to make some refreshments then please let Joyce know. If you plan to attend the service, please advise Joyce no later than 31st August.

Rotary Shoebox Appeal: Once again it is time to start thinking about the Rotary Shoebox Appeal. It would be good this year if we, as a church congregation, could fill 2 shoeboxes. One for a boy and one for a girl both aged 12-15.

It roughly costs £25 - £30 to fill a shoe box. The boxes are not large so filling them needs careful planning. To stop people worrying about purchasing items themselves it would be good if people would be willing to offer a £5.00 donation and I will buy all the goods. All monetary donations to be with Joyce by the 3rd September please. Every blessing and thank you in anticipation.

Joyce Wild

Request from the Salvation Army: The Salvation Army has asked us to be aware that when homeless persons are rehoused, they are in dire need of sheets, pillowcases, duvet covers and towels. If you have any linens that you no longer require, please let Joyce have them and she will deliver them to the Salvation Army.

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of -

Tinned fruit	Tinned vegetables	Squash/Fruit juice
Tinned baked beans	Tinned sausages/hot dogs	Tinned corned beef/ham
Tinned macaroni cheese	Tinned meatballs/ravioli	

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

Tinned soup	Jam/marmalade	Jelly	Tea Bags
Toilet roll	Coffee	Pasta sauce	

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 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).

Pastoral Support: Joyce Wild: (Tel: 01258 454091)