

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 19th May

Good morning and welcome to our Church Anniversary which is being led by Reverend David Vincent. The stewards today are Joyce Wild and Margaret and Alan Dymond. Thank you to Angela for playing for us and also for the lovely flowers. Please join us in the hall for our Anniversary lunch after today's service.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 26 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber followed by a General Church Meeting in the hall
Sunday 2 nd June	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight
Sunday 9 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Brian Skelley
Sunday 16 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Miss Elizabeth Ward
Friday 21 st June	10.00 am	Faith with Mark, Okeford Room
Sunday 23 rd June	10.45 am	Local Arrangement service

Colehill Methodist: Every Monday, 11.00 am to 12.00 noon(ish), Bible Study, coffee, prayers and plenty of chat. All welcome.

Bible in a year: 19th -25th May: 1 Chronicles 7 – 27 and John 6:22 – John 9:23

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. However, on the third Friday of each month – the next one being the 21st June – there will be a session entitled '**Faith with Mark**' to which you are cordially invited.

General Church Meeting, 26th May: As mentioned in previous editions of the Link, the General Church Meeting to be held after the service on the 26th May will be a very low-key affair. **Please bring a picnic lunch for yourselves**, although tea, coffee and cakes will be available. Mark has issued a brief Agenda for the meeting, as follows:

Welcome

Harvest Charity support ideas

Appointments celebration

Conversation on the life of Church

What are we saying about. Mission and Growth at Blandford Methodist Church? What might we do about it? What might we prioritise in the next 12 months?

Picnic - maybe with added entertainments!

If anyone has anything to add to the above proposed Agenda, please feel free to let Mags know so that she can pass your ideas and thoughts on to Mark.

Just to flesh the initial idea out a little...

Charities - what might we support together? Bring your ideas for Harvest Charity. We will have done something in the service, so this will be about some sort of chance to vote (maybe using sticky dots) and give the Stewards some indication of any groundswell of particular support to help decision-making.

Appointments - noting, celebrating and praying for those in positions of responsibility within the Church in the year ahead. We'll maybe print a list of appointments to go through.

Conversation - what are we saying about Mission and Growth at Blandford Methodist Church? And what might we do about it? What might we prioritise in the next 12 months? - hoping we will inform, encourage and enthuse each other, maybe set some agenda items for small group work, or emphasise getting support for a particular charity, or a piece of work that Blandford is calling for, maybe setting up a regular prayer for Mission and growth, options for discipleship... Ideally we'll start to see some passions emerging and be able to put them into action in a way that engages with people we know and people we don't know yet.

The GCM follows on from the service on Trinity Sunday. I will include something about generosity and giving, aiming to fulfil the commitment made at Church Council. The first focus will also develop to include thinking about other Charities, which we'll take into the time after the service.

Light and life, Mark

Woodlands Methodist: Cream tea, Sunday 16th June from 3.00 pm. Further details on poster in hall.

Data Protection: General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) is one activity that we at Blandford have been "putting off" for some time. At the last Church Council, I agreed to be the GDPR Champion for Blandford Methodist Church. GDPR applies to the retention of an individual's personal details, whether employed or voluntary.

Recently, the Southampton District of the Methodist Church said that it is mandatory for all Methodist Churches to send to the District their Data Protection Checklist for 2024. To help me, I am receiving excellent support from Mr Martin Borgars who is the Circuit Compliance and Administration Officer for GDPR at the Southampton District. On your behalf, I emailed to the Southampton District our 2024 Check List. I reported that nothing has been put in place. However, our intention at BMC is to work through the GDPR process to enable our Church to be compliant with UK law. My next task is to prepare a draft of our GDPR Policy. This draft will be circulated to Church Council (CC) Members shortly, and then hopefully it will be formally approved at our CC in October.

Another piece of work is called "Data Mapping". This is simply making a record of what personal data our Church members hold, how to hold it securely, and for what purposes that personal data can be used. This is where I will be asking those individuals, who keep personal data, for their help in completing this "Data Mapping" exercise.

Background notes - The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 enables employers to collect personal information relating to employees and applicants provided it is kept for a specific purpose. The information must be disposed of when no longer required or relevant.

Local churches, circuits and districts find themselves holding a variety of personal data including details of their lay employees. As the Data Controller for local Methodist Churches, Circuits and Districts, the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) are providing information and guidance on Data Protection in the Methodist Church.

If anyone wishes to know more, then please let's have a chat about it. I will be looking for your support as we get ourselves ready to be GDPR compliant.

John Cornish, GDPR Champion

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 2.5.24) -

Coffee (small jars) Jam Soup Tinned fish

Running low:

Biscuits Pasta sauce Tinned chilli con carne Tinned fruit
Tinned mince and onions Washing up liquid

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 remember to uphold in prayer those members of our congregation 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).

Minister: Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Enquiries via Lead Steward, John Cornish, on 07799 516 735

Pastoral Support: Joyce Wild: Tel: 01258 454091