



Lost property

Heather Smith *reflects on* Philippians 3:4-14

Losing something, depending on what it is, can range from a vague irritant to a deeply devastating experience. A ballpoint pen can easily be replaced, but a laptop or phone may contain vital information and its loss can seriously disrupt life. Losing a significant item like a wedding ring may cause a different kind of distress and the loss of a loved one is life-changing.

What kind of experience of Christ must Paul have had, that made him able to say in his letter to the Philippians: "I have suffered the loss of all

things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ"? It would be an unusual person who could say that some major loss they had suffered was "rubbish" compared to the experience of God in their lives. Perhaps it helps to think of the deep grounding Paul had as a result of his relationship with Christ. Without it he could not have fulfilled his vocation to spread the Gospel.

We too need to be grounded in God, and that firm foundation is there for us, whether we recognise it or not. If we let the knowledge of it grow within us we may find that loss, although destabilising, does not destroy us. Christ first – and we will begin to see our lives, whatever they may bring, with God's perspective. 🌱

Gracious God, may the knowledge of your presence grow within us, grounding us until we stand firm in your love. Amen.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

by Heather Smith

The United Nations has long recognised that sport has a role in bringing people together and set up the UN International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, which is held every year on 6 April. It focuses on how sport can make positive impacts for people and the environments in which they operate.

At an international level, sport brings together people from countries with diverse political

and economic situations, enabling them to get to know one another and to compete in a positive environment where they can make the most of their God-given talents and all the hard work they put in to be the very best.

In light of sport's peacebuilding capabilities, it's interesting to reflect on the practice of banning athletes from countries whose politics or international behaviour is particularly difficult. Today could be the day to give some thought to the role of sport as a peacebuilding activity. 🌱

“ **Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving.**”

St Augustine (AD 354-430), theologian, philosopher and bishop

People of the New Testament

Herod the Great and his descendants

by Caroline Fletcher

The Bible uses the name Herod when talking of several different men: Herod the Great (40-4 BC – see Matthew 2), his son Herod Antipas (4 BC – AD 39; Matthew 14:5; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 13:31) and his grandson Herod Agrippa I (AD 41-44; Acts 12).

In addition, Herod the Great's other sons Herod Philip (4 BC – AD 33/34; Luke 3:1) and Herod Archelaus (4 BC – AD 6; Matthew

2:19-23) also get mentions, as does his great grandson Herod Agrippa II (AD 50-92/93 or 100 / Acts 25:13-27; Acts 26), although they are not referred to as Herod in the Bible.

We are fortunate to have the writings of the first-century Jewish historian Josephus, which tell us a great deal about Herod and his descendants. There are some fascinating characters among these rulers and learning about them helps us to better understand the world of Jesus and his first followers. 🌱

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 6th April

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Reverend Dr Gareth Higgs. The stewards today are John Cornish and Philippa Daffern. Thank you to Margaret for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 13 th April	10.45 am	Palm Sunday: Morning Worship led by Mr Brian Skelley
Friday 18 th April	10.45 am	Good Friday: Service led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber followed by refreshments in hall
Sunday 20 th April	10.45 am	Easter Sunday: Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 27 th April	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Keith Beckingham
Sunday 4 th May	10.45 am	Church Anniversary service led by Reverend Pauline Crispin, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 11 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Glenda Sidding
Sunday 18 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 25 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight

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: 6th – 12th April: 1 Samuel 4 – 21 and Luke 9 -11

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 there will be a session entitled '**Meeting with Mark**' to which you are cordially invited. **PLEASE NOTE: Mark will not be available on Friday 11th April.**

Church Anniversary: Our Church Anniversary will be on Sunday 4th May and we are very pleased that Reverend Pauline Crispin has agreed to come and lead our service for us. Following the service we will enjoy a lunch in the hall which will be either a chicken dish, a vegetarian dish or a gluten free meal. There will be no charge for the meal, but donations on the day will be gratefully received. If you wish to attend the anniversary lunch, please sign the list in the Narthex, no later than 20th April.

Joyce Wild

Woodlands Methodist: Worship for You service, 13th April, 6.00 pm, led by Reverend Andrew Pottage.

Woodlands Methodist: Friday 26th April, 7.30 pm, 'Call My Bluff'. Can you guess what is the correct usage of each vintage tool? Further details on poster in hall.

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 26.2.25) – Coffee, Squash, Cereal, Tinned Sweetcorn, Toothpaste. Any other donations of food or household goods are also welcomed. 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