

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 30th November

First Sunday in Advent

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship with Holy Communion which is being led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber. The stewards today are John Cornish, Rona Downes and Jean Peck. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 7 th December	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight
Sunday 14 th December	3.00 pm	Carols at Christmas followed by refreshments (note: there will be no morning service)
Sunday 21 st December	10.45 am	Carol Service led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Thursday 25 th December	10.00 am	Christmas Morning Worship led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Sunday 28 th December	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Sunday 4 th January 2026	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 11 th January	10.45 am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 18 th January	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Diana Middleditch
Sunday 25 th January	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Miss Liz Ward

From one of today's readings: Matthew Ch 24, verses 36 to 44. "You are a Gift" - 1st Advent Week

Together, during Advent, we're exploring what it means to recognise the gifts God gives us and to see ourselves, and each other, as gifts too.

Let's begin with something simple but deceptively deep: you are a gift. Honestly. Not in the 'wrapped up with a shiny bow' way (though if that's your vibe, we're not judging), but in the 'this world is better because you're in it' kind of way.

On Sunday 30th November one of the Bible readings, Psalm 122, imagines an idealised Jerusalem as a city of peace, a gift for all people. And in Matthew Chapter 24 verses 36–44, Jesus says: be ready. Not in a panicky, last-minute-shopping way, but ready to live as the gift you already are.

Think about it. Every time you've listened when someone needed to talk or sent that quick "thinking of you" text, or even just offered the last biscuit instead of taking it for yourself: you've been a gift.

So this week, when life feels a bit chaotic, take a moment. Breathe. Remember: God's already wrapping you in grace. You don't have to wait to be perfect before you can make a difference. You already are a gift.

Source: Methodist Church Advent and Christmas campaign for 2025 John Cornish

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

Circuit prayers: First Saturday of every month at 8.30 am at Holtwood Methodist Church.

Bible in a year: 30th November – 6th December: Ezekiel 37 – Daniel 4 and 2 Peter 2 – 1 John 5

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.

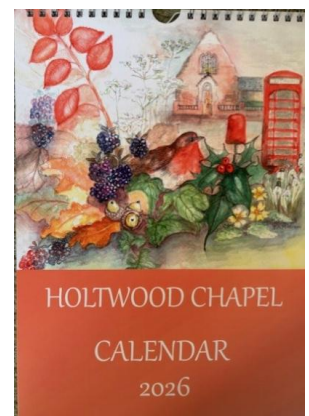
Church Christmas Card: As from Sunday 7th December in the Narthex there will be a large Christmas card for church people to sign rather than sending individual cards. The money you would have spent on cards to be donated to our two chosen charities via the box provided.

Joyce Wild

Colehill Methodist: Christmas coffee morning will take place on Saturday 6th December, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. Various stalls to include cakes, gifts and 'Christmas Have a Go'. Everyone very welcome.

Woodlands Methodist: Worship for You. Carols by Candlelight Service with Verwood Concert Brass, Sunday 14th December 6.00 pm. Further details on the poster in the hall.

Holtwood Calendar for 2026: The Holtwood 2026 calendar is now available. We are excited to announce the sale of the calendar as part of our fundraising for repairs to the premises. The cost is £8.50 per calendar, with various payment methods and we can post the calendar to you if you are not able to visit. Email calendar@holtwood.org.uk for more details or to order your calendar(s).



Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 20.11.25) – Cereal, Coffee, Tinned fish, Tinned fruit, Biscuits, Coffee, Tea bags (40s). 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