



Heather Smith *reflects on* John 14:8-17 [25-27]

People who have grown up without knowing their birth parents often want to find them, even though it can be a difficult, emotional process. It may not even be possible to find them, or to find who they were but that they have died. This desire to know our family origins extends beyond our parents – there is a huge interest in family history, with genealogy websites and even the celebrity programme, *Who Do You Think You Are?*

If you find out about your long-lost ancestors it might bring some surprises. For example, you might turn up something unexpected or even scandalous, which could give rise to bad feeling within the family. But for those who find a living parent, the emotional consequences can be huge.

Just before today's reading begins, Jesus talks about the Father: "If you know me, you will know my Father also." You can hear Philip's frustration as he says: "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

People of the New Testament

Barnabas

by Caroline Fletcher

Barnabas is usually remembered as little more than Paul's sidekick, although this does no justice to his significance and his influence on Paul. We read of him in Acts, where he played a vital role in the early Church and he is also mentioned in 1 Corinthians, Galatians and Colossians.

In Acts he is part of the Jerusalem church founded by Jesus' followers shortly after his death. According to Luke, one of the remarkable

things about this church was the practical love these first believers showed one another, with the wealthier members sharing their material resources with those in need.

Barnabas was clearly a great man of God. He could discern the leading of God's Spirit, had the courage to step out in faith when others would not, he was a skilled mediator and possessed the courage to reach out with the Gospel. No wonder Luke is full of praise for him. Without Barnabas, Christianity would not be the cosmopolitan faith it is today – we owe him a great deal. 🌱

Someone meeting a relative for the first time might find astonishing similarities. Jesus' response is that anyone who has seen him has seen the Father. If we find striking resemblances to our only-just-met human relatives, Jesus resembles the Father even more, because the doctrine of the Trinity tells us there is no difference. If the Father seems elusive we need only look to Jesus. 🌱

God our Father, in you we live and move and have our being. Give us the grace, compassion and faith to treat all your children as our brothers and sisters. Amen.

LGBTQ+ Church

Part 5 – welcoming LGBTQ+ people

by Jayne Ozanne

How can your church ensure it is known as a welcoming place for LGBTQ+ people? It is vitally important that churches make overtly clear that they are a safe place for LGBTQ+ people, otherwise many will just stay away – just think how exhausting it is to spend the whole service wondering if something might be said that will show you're unwelcome.

So what can your church do? Firstly, you need to be clear that

you do really want to welcome LGBTQ+ people. Discussing and agreeing the Inclusive Church statement (www.inclusive-church.org/the-ic-statement) is often a good start. You then need to make this decision visible – both on your website and in the church. Having LGBTQ+ people in leadership is also a wonderful way of letting others know that they are truly welcome, not just tolerated. The most important thing, though, is to "break the silence" – don't just assume that people know where you stand! 🌱

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Romans 15:7

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 8th June

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mrs Diana Middleditch. The stewards today are Christine Lydford and Philippa Daffern. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 15 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 22 nd June	10.45 am	Local Arrangement service led by members of the congregation
Sunday 29 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber followed by General Church Meeting in the hall
Sunday 6 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Andrew Pottage
Sunday 13 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Barrie Knight
Sunday 20 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Keith Beckingham
Sunday 27 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Priestley

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: 8th – 14th June: 2 Chronicles 30 – Ezra 10 and John 18 – Acts 1

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.

BMC Church Council Membership – Expression of Interest: If you are a member of Blandford Methodist Church and feel called and able to serve on the Church Council from September 2025, please speak to John Cornish or Reverend Mark to confirm your interest by 22nd June 2025. Your willingness to serve is greatly valued as we discern the future direction of our church together, and make things happen.

Becoming a Member of BMC: If you are interested in becoming a member of Blandford Methodist Church, please speak with Reverend Mark. He would be delighted to talk with you about what church membership means and how to take this next step in your journey of faith.

Light and life, Mark

Sunday 29th June 2025, BMC General Church Meeting following the morning service: All members and friends are warmly invited!

We will gather in worship, taking time to reflect on the past year and prayerfully consider where God may be leading us in the year ahead.

Please come prepared to share or reflect on:

- A significant moment in your faith journey this past year
- Highlights from our church life and community
- Where God might be calling us to serve together in the year ahead

After worship: Please bring a picnic lunch to enjoy together. We will:

- Hear a brief financial summary
- Confirm our stewards and Church Council members (from September)
- Share in an open conversation about the future ministry and witness of our Church

Let us come together with thankful hearts and hopeful vision.

Charities for 2025/2026: At our General Church Meeting on the 29th June, we will need to consider new charities to support from September 2025 through to August 2026. Please can you give this some prayerful thought and if possible let me have some ideas before the meeting so that I can pass these ideas on to Mark. However, ideas at the meeting will also be very welcome. (For info: our current two charities are Zane *[helping forgotten people in Zimbabwe and seeking to relieve invisible and visible suffering]*, and the Louis Ross Foundation *[helping young people facing difficulties]*).

Margaret Cornish

Woodlands Methodist: You are cordially invited to hear “Gospel Voices” when they lead a musical worship service at Woodlands on Sunday 8th June at 6.30 pm.

Colehill Methodist will be holding a Coffee Morning on 14th June, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. Everyone very welcome.

Wimborne Methodist: Organ Recital on Saturday 21st June, 7.00 pm, with Colin J Davey and David A Warwick. Full details on the poster in the hall.

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 11.4.25) – 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