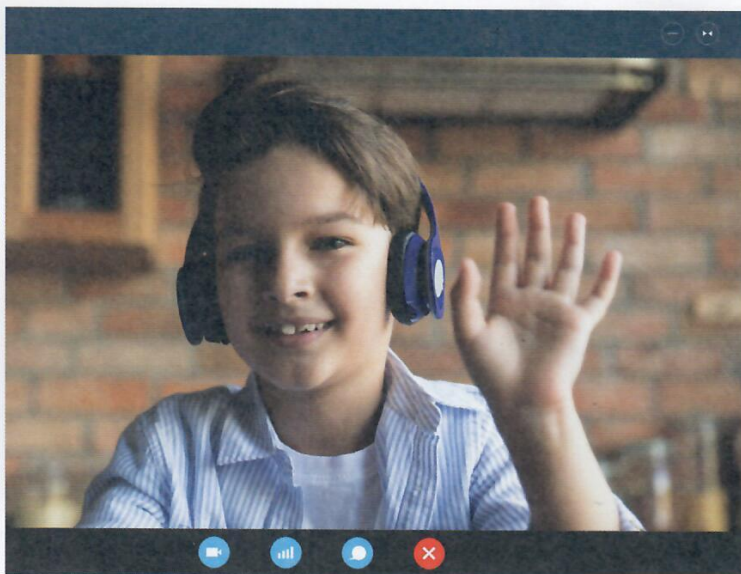


Face-to-face communication



Lord, teach me to feel your energy, to know that it is directed towards me, and that your face shines upon me. Help me to radiate that shining love in the world. Amen.

Heather Smith *reflects on* Psalm 67

There's really no substitute for face-to-face communication. An email can be easily misinterpreted, as can a phone call. The development of video communication tools shows how important we think it is to actually see someone's facial expressions and be able to look them in the eye. It brings a connection that is otherwise much harder.

Today's psalm reprises the blessing from Numbers 6 in the words: "May God... make his face to shine upon us". It is just as important that our relationship with God is face to face as it is for human communication. God's shining face shows pleasure – we can imagine, perhaps, a kindly parent beaming with pride and love at their children. But, you might say, "We can't actually see God, so it isn't really face-to-face communication at all." The blogger Lioness Oyinbo, who is blind, offers a helpful insight. Although she can't see the look on a person's face she explains that people underestimate the physical energy between two people in face-to-face communication. Among other cues, she talks about the energy that exists between two people, and the fact that she can more easily pick up on non-verbal information from someone she knows well.

God's energy is all around us – it sustains the world. We might think of God's shining face as that energy directed especially towards each of us. And the better we know God, the more attuned to it we will be. 🌟

Walking with Rosie *Shifting sand*

by Gillian Cooper

Rosie and I have come to the beach. Access is down a concrete ramp with a steep drop onto boulders at the bottom. But today the drop has gone, and so have the boulders, and we step from the ramp onto firm damp sand. Further down the beach there is a ridge of white rock we have not seen before, and there are shells and sea glass in abundance. Recent strong tides

and fierce winds have changed the shape of the beach, moving heavy stones and depositing sand and treasures.

While Rosie charges around on the extra sand, I am feeling disconcerted. Something I know well has unexpectedly changed, and I don't know it any more. I'm forcibly reminded that my little world is insecure. I must place my trust in God, the rock who does not move, with whom I am forever safe and in whom is my home. 🌊

“The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”

Psalm 24:1

LGBTQ+ Church

Part 3 – the declaration

by Jayne Ozanne

If you could bring hundreds of senior religious leaders together to make a statement to support LGBTQ+ people around the world, what would it say?

The Global Interfaith Commission on LGBTQ+ Lives spent some time debating this. We believed it was imperative that all LGBTQ+ people are a precious part of God's creation. We acknowledged the harm that certain religious teachings have

caused and asked for forgiveness from those whose lives had been damaged or destroyed on the pretext of religious teaching. We went on to call for an end to criminalisation on the grounds of sexuality and gender identity, and for violence towards LGBTQ+ people to cease. Finally, we called for a global ban on conversion practices.

Over four hundred senior religious leaders signed this declaration ahead of its launch on 16 December 2020 at Westminster Abbey. You can read the full declaration at www.globalinterfaith.lgbt 🌈

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 25th May

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Barrie Knight. The stewards today are Joyce Wild and Christine Lydford. Thank you to Joyce for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 1 st June	10.45 am	Mission in Britain: Morning Worship led by Reverend Carl Stokes
Sunday 8 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Diana Middleditch
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: 25th – 31st May: 1 Chronicles 25 - 2 Chronicles 14 and John 9 – 12:26

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.

Lunch Club: Joyce has advised that the next Lunch Club will be taking a break and resuming at 12.30 pm on Friday 26th September.

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.

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

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

Christian Aid Week: A huge thank you for your donations amounting to £185.00 from our Church for Christian Aid Week (and that is before any Gift Aid is added). For over 80 years, supporters like you have been part of a movement built on hope—a hope that speaks out against injustice and stands firm against poverty. This Christian Aid Week, you kept that hope alive by supporting farmers in parts of the world who are fighting the effects of the climate crisis. May I, on behalf of Christian Aid, thank you for your generosity.

John Cornish

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