

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 5th May

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Colin Besant. The stewards today are Joyce Wild, Margaret Cornish and Christine Lydford. Thank you to Angela for playing for us and also for the lovely flowers. Please join us in the hall for refreshments after today's service.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 9 th May	6.00 pm	Ascension Day service to be held at Holtwood
Sunday 12 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Peter McNeill
Friday 17 th May	10.00 am	'Fun with Mark' – come and meet Mark Kimber in the Okeford Room
Sunday 19 th May	10.45 am	Church Anniversary led by Reverend David Vincent, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 26 th May	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber followed by a General Church Meeting in the hall

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: 5th – 11th May: 1 Kings 19 – 2 Kings 14 and Luke 23 - John 2

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 17th May – there will be a session entitled '**Fun with Mark**' to which you are cordially invited.

Church Anniversary, 19th May: We look forward to our 189th Church Anniversary on the 19th May which will be led by Reverend David Vincent from Wimborne Methodist. Following the service, we hope you will all stay for lunch in the hall. This year we thought we would have a slightly different lunch than in the past, so we will be offering either a chicken curry (mild to medium) or for those who are not so keen on curry, a chicken casserole. We will offer either rice or potatoes to accompany the curry or casserole. There will be a fruit flan and ice cream to follow the mains. Unfortunately, due to the cost of the ingredients, we will need to make a charge of £5 per person. We hope you will be able to come and join us for lunch, so to help us with our catering, please can you indicate on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex your preferences for lunch.

Mission Aviation Fellowship: Monday 6th May from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm at the Village Green, Milford on Sea, led by Mark Priestley. Everyone is welcome to this family event to sit in a Cessna aircraft pilot's seat, piloting on a flight simulator and being served refreshments throughout the day. And, importantly, to find out what the Christian Mission Aviation Fellowship is doing around the world.

John Cornish

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

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

Biscuits

Coffee (small jars)

Jam

Pulses

Soup

Tinned carrots

Tinned sweetcorn

Toilet rolls

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 and please continue to remember Pat and Brian in your prayers.

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