

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 9th June

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Brian Skelley. The stewards today are John Cornish and Christine Lydford. Thank you to Angela for playing for us and thanks also to Angela for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 16 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Miss Elizabeth Ward
Friday 21 st June	10.00 am	Faith with Mark, Okeford Room
Sunday 23 rd June	10.45 am	Local Arrangement service
Sunday 30 th June	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber
Sunday 7 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Sunday 14 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Rob White
Sunday 21 st July	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Priestley
Sunday 28 th July	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

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: 9th – 15th June: 2 Chronicles 32 – Nehemiah 3 and John 18:19 – Acts 2:21

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 21st June – there will be a session entitled **'Faith with Mark'** to which you are cordially invited.

Strengths and Weaknesses at Blandford Methodist Church: We have been asked by the Circuit to prepare a statement of our strengths and weaknesses at Blandford Methodist Church. This statement will be helpful to the Circuit's Invitational Committee (CIC) during their stationing process which has already started for ministerial appointments which start in September 2025. It is important to hear from all our members and gather everyone's thoughts for this statement. I will then collate your contributions and pass the statement to the CIC before the **end of June 2024.**

To save time, it would be good for us all now to prayerfully consider our church's strengths and weaknesses. We can think about our services, our Christian faith and growth, our mission, our mix with the local community and other churches in the town. What concerns us for the future? Think about our times at Coffee Mornings and Lunch Club. Also think about what we would like to see for our Church in the future. Would we like any changes? What more could we do? These are just a few thoughts (and certainly not all) of the areas

where your contributions will be of vital importance. So please pray for God's guidance on these matters.

I would therefore be pleased to receive your comments and thoughts by Sunday 23rd June at the latest. I am happy to receive comments either written on paper and handed to me on the 16th or 23rd June, or emailed at any time before the 23rd June on cornishjr@gmail.com

Then on the 23rd June during refreshments we might have a brief conversation to discuss thoughts received and to bring these thoughts together so that I can prepare a report for the CIC. Thank you.

John Cornish

Carols at Christmas: The first Sunday in December has been our traditional afternoon for the Salvation Army Carol Concert. This year the first Sunday falls on 1st December. After talking this through, the Stewards felt this was too early in the month for the carol concert and so spoke to Major Carole Gadsden at Wimborne Salvation Army to see if the date could be changed. In conversation with Carole she mentioned she will be “moving to pastures new” in July 2024 and will not be replaced in Wimborne. She also mentioned that the Salvation Army bandsmen get fully booked during the Christmas period and they do not have another Sunday available in December to hold the concert with us.

The Stewards have therefore decided for our Church to host and arrange our own "Carols at Christmas" at 3.00 pm on Sunday 15th December, to be followed by traditional light/seasonal refreshments. The “Carols at Christmas” will be widely advertised in Blandford nearer the time in the hope that many of the town's people will attend.

Joyce and I had planned to mention this to you all at Sunday's General Church Meeting – but unfortunately it slipped our minds. Please pray for this service and those willing to take part that it will be a blessing for all who attend. Thank you.

John Cornish

Letter from Andrew De Ville (outgoing Chair of Southampton District): I am writing to thank you all as I prepare to finish my time as District Chair. It has been an incredible privilege and honour to serve alongside each of you in ministry and fellowship over the last few years.

As I reflect on our shared journey, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication, commitment, and passion displayed by you all. Together, we have navigated challenges, joyfully celebrated and continually sought to spread the love and message of Christ throughout our communities.

While my time as District Chair is ending, I am confident that the spirit of collaboration and service that defines our District will continue to thrive under new leadership with Rachel and her colleagues, and we will continue to pray for all of you.

Helen and I would also like to thank you all for the very generous gift that we have received and the kind words you have shared, both at the Service of Celebration and with the many pieces of bunting that you had written on. The ability for me to do my role was only because of your unwavering support, encouragement, and partnership. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated people, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as your District Chair.

As Helen and I move to our new appointment in the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit we remain grateful to the Church for allowing us to stay within the District, both for personal reasons and because we want to continue to serve the best District in the Connexion!

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your District Chair. May God continue to bless each of you and the important work we do together.

Every blessing, Andrew & Helen de Ville

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 8.6.24) -

Coffee (small jars) Jam Soup Tinned fish

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