

## **Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led Mr Colin Besant. The stewards today are Margaret Cornish and Rona Downes. Thank you to Angela for playing for us and also for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

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### **Dates for your diary:**

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|---------------------------------|----------|---|
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> July    | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mr Rob White   |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July    | 10.00 am | Faith with Mark, Okeford Room   |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> July    | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mr Mark Priestley  |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July    | 10.45 am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber                |
| Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August   | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mrs Joyce Wild   |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> August  | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant  |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> August  | 10.45 am | Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Deborah Cornish               |
| Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> August  | 10.45 am | Morning Worship led by Mrs Diana Middleditch                                      |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October  | 10.45 am | Harvest Festival service led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber followed by Harvest lunch |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October | 2.30 pm  | Church Council meeting, Okeford Room  |

### **Methodist Way of Life:**

*Have you noticed?*

God loves you unconditionally. That is the Good News we know and seek to share with those we meet. We respond to God's love through the way we live our lives.

Our General Church Meeting in May included a conversation about mission and growth. Amongst other things we wondered what we might do about growing as followers of Jesus. Our local arrangement service on 23rd May focussed on the "Call to Discipleship". We revisited the accounts of Andrew and Philip, and you might remember the imaginative reflection from that unhappy neighbour wondering why on earth Jesus called to Matthew, saying "Follow Me". We remembered again how Jesus' love reaches out to all. After that service, we looked ahead to the ministry at our Church in September 2025 and discussed some of our strengths and weaknesses. We aired concerns over "all getting older", "sometimes lacking energy" and even possibly "survival of the Church". On the plus side we rejoiced in a clear desire to serve and to "do outreach" amongst the people in Blandford.

*What might we do?*

You are invited to come on an expedition to explore the "Methodist Way of Life".

What are some of the important areas of our Christian life? How do we live those out?

Each month, from this September, we'll explore more about what following Jesus might mean in different areas of our Worship, Outreach (another word for Evangelism), Learning and Caring, and Service.

The Methodist Way of Life resources encourage us to think of our expedition as going on a train journey with a number of (12) possible stations to explore. You might want to travel alone or with a friend. We would encourage you to find your best way to make a record. Maybe take “snapshots”, jot down a postcard, write a letter, or even draw some doodles to note any light-bulb moments, things that speak into your life, things that speak into our life together, or simply even areas you might like to explore further.

Our hope is that we will all feel able to share some of these thoughts and reflections so that we might share together moments of growth, encourage one another, and give thanks to God.

Every time we visit a station, we will learn something new about ourselves and Jesus, as the Holy Spirit works in us. That’s why it’s important to reflect on our experiences, alone and with others, as we explore the Christian way of life.

*What’s next?*

Please accept, if you haven’t already, this invitation to intentionally explore together what it means to live and share a Christian way of life together.

Look out for some more details of where we might travel in August’s Link newsletter.

And of course, if you have any concerns or suggestions, then do please let me or John know of them.

Let's pray that our Lord will bless each of us as we embark on this adventure.

Light and life. Mark

**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:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July: Job 34 – Psalms 9 and Acts 15 - 18

**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 19<sup>th</sup> July – there will be a session entitled ‘**Faith with Mark**’ to which you are cordially invited.

**Thank you:** Dear friends, the amazing flower tub you bought us for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and which is now on our front doorstep, looks amazing. I am dutifully dead heading every day which helps keep the arrangement looking so vibrant. The theatre voucher you gave us has now purchased two tickets for the show ‘A Fairy Tale in New York’ at the Lighthouse Theatre in November. So, once again, a big thank you for your generosity on our special occasion, it is so appreciated. *Love Joyce*

**Mission in Britain Boxes:** We have arrived at that time of year again when I need to collect in the Mission in Britain Boxes. If I am not at church for any reason and you can’t give them to me personally, then please give your box to the steward on duty who will put it in the safe

until I can collect it. Closing date for boxes is Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Many thanks for all you do for this charity, it is very much appreciated.

*Joyce Wild*

**Welcome service for our Incoming Chair of the District:** We have said our "goodbyes" to the outgoing Chair of the District, namely Reverend Andrew De Ville. Now it's our opportunity to say "hello" to his replacement, the Reverend Rachel Bending and we are warmly invited to the District's Welcoming Service for Rachel. The service will take place at Salisbury Methodist Church, 26 St. Edmonds Church Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF on Sunday 1st September at 3.00 pm. All are welcome to the service which will include Holy Communion and will be followed by refreshments. If you plan to attend, please send an email to Sarah Potheary (PA to the Chair) on chairspa@sdmc.org.uk.

**Woodlands Methodist:** Worship For You. Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 6.00 pm. Service to be led by Graham and Sheila and entitled, 'A Life with God'.

**Blandford Foodbank** is **urgently** in need of (updated 20.6.24) -

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