

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 24th November

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

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 1 st December	10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Reverend Peter McNeill (First Advent)
Sunday 1 st December	time tbc	Carol Concert at Blandford Parish Church with the Salvation Army band
Friday 6 th December	6.00 pm	“Yuletide” at the Parish Church – open for late night shoppers
Sunday 8 th December	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Deborah Cornish
Monday 9 th December	2.00 pm	Decorate the hall and Church for Christmas
Friday 13 th December		Lunch Club Christmas Lunch
Saturday 14 th December	6.00 pm	Carols on the Green
Sunday 15 th December	3.00 pm	Carols at Christmas, Blandford Methodist (<i>no morning service</i>) followed by refreshments
Sunday 22 nd December	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Tuesday 24 th December	time tbc	Christmas Eve Service at Colehill Methodist
Wednesday 25 th December	10.00 am	Christmas Day Service at Blandford Methodist led by Mrs Joyce Wild
Sunday 29 th December	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Deborah Cornish
Sunday 5 th January	10.45 am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber followed by simple lunch

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: 24th – 30th November: Ezekiel 22 – 39 and 1 Peter 1 – 2 Peter 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 there will be a session entitled ‘**Meeting with Mark**’ to which you are cordially invited.

June Young: It is with sadness that we announce the death of June Young on Thursday 14th November. June died at home with her family around her. Our thoughts and prayers go to Lindsey, Mark, Rachel and James as they mourn the loss of their mum and grandmother. June's funeral will be held at church on Tuesday 10th December at 1.30 pm. *Joyce Wild*

Local Arrangement: I would just like to say that the Local Arrangement Songs of Praise service last Sunday was a true blessing. People spoke about their choice of hymn or poem with amazing conviction, and I am sure many of us were near to tears. The range of gifts within our congregation all God-given were used in harmony to build up the whole body of Christ. Though small in number I think the singing just about raised the roof, the playing was superb and the drama had us tittering away. God can work wonders if we let him and the worship that day was a testimony to that fact. Praise God. *Joyce Wild*

Good News regarding Reverend Dr. Mark Kimber: Starting in September 2025, Reverend Dr. Mark Kimber will continue his ministry at Blandford and Colehill Methodist Church and start his ministry at Wimborne Methodist Church.

On Thursday 7th November the Chair of the Southampton District (Reverend Rachel Bending) rang Joyce to say that as a Circuit we had matches for the group of Churches at Wimborne, Colehill and Blandford and the group of Churches at Ringwood, Crowe, Highcliffe and Mudeford Lane. On Saturday 9th November, the Stewards from Wimborne, Colehill and Blandford Churches together with the Circuit Invitation Committee (CIC) met at Wimborne Methodist Church with Mark. He will be joining the Circuit as a part-time Circuit Minister with pastoral responsibility for Wimborne, Colehill, and Blandford. The visit proved a very positive one and the CIC felt sure that Mark was exactly the right person needed to continue the Lord's work alongside the three congregations. As protocol insists, time was allowed for him to discern if the placement was the right one for him. With this in mind, Joyce waited until Monday 11th November to ring Mark asking for his decision. His answer was a resounding yes. We can now tell you all that Mark will be a part-time Circuit Minister with pastoral responsibilities for the Methodist Churches at Wimborne, Colehill and Blandford starting in September 2025. God is good and we are very blessed. *John Cornish / Joyce Wild*

Church Carol Service: Our Carol Service this year will be held at **3.00 pm on Sunday 15th December**. To ensure our Carol Service is a success, we need volunteers to help as follows:

- a) If you are able to help distribute Carol Service flyers to the local community on Friday 29th November, please have a word with John today.
- b) After the Carol Service, we will be offering refreshments as in past years. If you feel you will be able to help set up the hall on Saturday 14th December, or help with the refreshments after the service on the 15th December, please have a word with Mags.

Christmas Day lunch: Once again, the church is offering a lunch for those who find themselves on their own on Christmas Day. The cost is £6.00 per head and is to be paid when booking your place. You can book by ringing 07817 505543 or speaking with Joyce or David at Church/Lunch Club. Closing date for booking 13th December. *Joyce Wild*

Christmas Cards: At the Church Council meeting on Friday 18th October the two charities chosen for us to support in the coming year were voted on. They were ZANE (Zimbabwe a national Emergency) for overseas and the Louis Ross Foundation for here at home. To start our fund-raising campaign, I thought it might be a nice idea to instead of individually sending each other Christmas cards this year rather we sign one large card to each other and the money we would have spent on Christmas cards can be donated to our charities. This is not compulsory and should you wish to send cards then please do.

Joyce Wild

Colehill Methodist: Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 7th December, 10.00 am – 12.00 noon. All welcome. Further details on poster in hall.

Woodlands Methodist Church: Worship for you. Carols by candlelight with Verwood Band led by Reverend Nick Wood. Sunday December 15th at 6.00 pm. Followed by tea/coffee and mince pies. Everyone very welcome.

Foodbank Reverse Advent: A huge thank you to everyone who has donated items to the Foodbank's Reverse Advent. Bearing in mind that we are such a small congregation, the response to this has been magnificent. I will be taking the items round to the Foodbank within the next few days so that they can get parcels put together for distribution in time for Christmas. Once again, thank you so much.

John Cornish

Verwood Methodist: The Fayrewood Singers are having their Christmas Concert, "The most wonderful time of the year". Saturday 7th December at Verwood Methodist Church, 2.30 pm with tea/coffee/mince pies at the end of the concert. Tickets are £6 and we will be giving a donation to Macmillan Caring Locally If anyone is interested in attending the concert, tickets will be available on the door.

Marilyn Whatmore (emwhatmore@talktalk.net)

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 17.10.24) -

Baked beans Biscuits Coffee Rice Jam
Soup Tinned peas Tinned potatoes Tinned Carrots

For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point.

John Cornish

Christian Aid Middle East crisis appeal: We are all aware of the devastating conflict in the Middle East, and Christian Aid has set up an appeal. Christian Aid also supports the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) with many other supporting charities that help to provide lifesaving supplies to civilians caught up in this conflict. If you are able to make a response to this appeal, please consider that our Methodist Way of Life theme for October was "Open" to hospitality and generosity. Please make your donation using the Christian Aid envelopes available in the Narthex and if you wish, please complete the "Gift Aid" form on the envelope.

The final date for envelopes is today, 24th November.

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