

Outlook

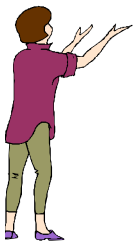
News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - February 2006

Worshipping or Walking By...

How would you define 'Worship'? The Collins Concise Dictionary says, '*to show profound religious devotion and respect to*', but is that 'Worship'?

For me, worship is at the very heart of the Christian life, both in terms of what God wants from us, and defining the way in which we respond to his infinite love and mercy. God created us, sent his Son to save us, and through his Spirit sustains us daily, and so '*We love because first he loved us*'. There is a sense in which we are both *called* to worship and *moved* to worship, corporately and individually, as God draws us into a further relationship with himself, and as we reach out spiritually to him in reply.

And leaving the Collins Concise definition behind, there's more. Worship is not only a thing we do, it's the place in which we can receive from God, a place where we are renewed by God's spirit. It's a living free flow, yes, from us to God, but also from God to us. In worship we open ourselves up, lay ourselves bare and stand before the throne of God in awe and wonder, moved by the magnificence of a living God who treats us all as his only child. And there, as we stand in his light, open and vulnerable, the Holy Spirit comes to bring the transformation promised by Christ, "*But when he, the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.*" Truth about ourselves. Truth about our relationships. Truth about our calling or our gifting. Truth about God and who he is.



It's exciting but at the same time frightening. It's the joy of giving oneself mixed with the disturbance of God's penetrating light, and yet it's only that if we seek it.

The rainy season is upon us. The cold of January will soon be the cold and wet of February. The heavens will open and puddles will be aplenty. And how many puddles will we pass each day? The

thing about puddles is that they are teeming with life. Each is the home to thousands of micro-organisms of all shapes, sizes and colours, but how many of those organisms will we see this year? I dare say none. Why? Because we don't stop and engage with the puddle. We see it and walk by, and the trouble is we can do that with our worship.

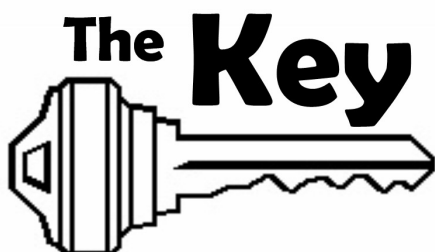
"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness." 1 Chronicles 16.29 KJV

Music can be played with fingers and hymns can be sung with voices, but is that worship or walking by? Our prayers can be a list and our bibles read just like any other book in the house, but if that's so, we've missed the point, and the opportunity to meet with God.

My trouble with the Collins definition of worship is that it fails to speak of the spiritual engagement required of us and deserved by God. In Collins, worship could be read as a perfunctory act, and in so many churches that is what it is, but that's not worship. Worship is the cutting edge of our relationship with God, the dynamic point at which we meet, the place where our hearts unite and become one, but only if that's what we seek.

Worship is like a puddle, full of life and vitality in which God reaches out to us, but do we reach back, or is our worship perfunctory? Are we engaging with God or are we just simply walking on by?

Martin Court



Finding the Key to life

Coming to BFPC in Spring 2006

Who will you invite ?

Prayer Days in the Parishes

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

At the PCC Day Away in the Autumn, one issue which was raised was the absence of regular corporate prayer in the life of the parishes. Whilst there are people praying individually, in Home Groups, termly prayer evenings and other Prayer Groups, the Saturday prayer meeting has been stopped through a lack of numbers and the Tuesday morning meeting is very small.

I do not think that any of us needs to have a full-blown sermon on the importance of prayer - all of us recognise the importance of it but many find the practicalities somewhat harder to organise ! So the issue which the PCC have faced is to enable the parishes to have an opportunity to pray in such a manner that makes it possible for as many as possible to be involved.

Prayer @ BFPC

What we have come up with is the idea of holding a monthly "Prayer Day" on the last Tuesday of each month and that this would consist of prayer meetings happening throughout the day:

- At 9am at BFPC (enabling those on the school run to attend).
- At 12noon at Langton.
- At 8pm at BFPC.

The aim is that by holding three meetings, it will be possible for everyone in the parish to attend at least one of them. It is also aimed so that people can "drop in" to the meetings.

What will happen ?

Each prayer meeting will aim to last 1 hour and to follow a similar format: starting with 5 minutes of quiet music, possibly followed by a song. After that, a time of thanksgiving and a period of silence or quiet music so that we can wait on God and see what he might be wanting to say to us. There would be a period of intercession and sharing with a final prayer to conclude.

What Will We Pray For ?

Whilst there will always be topics for prayer which I will be able to offer, this is not just praying for those sort of issues ! We would like you to send topics and requests for prayer to the office and you can do this by either phoning 9.30-12.00 noon on weekday mornings or emailing prayer@bfpc.org.uk. We would need them by the Sunday preceding the prayer meeting so that we can publish items for thanksgiving and prayer on the web site, along with other resources in time for the meeting. The first meeting will be on 28th February, and will replace the Home Groups Prayer Meeting planned for 1st March (and once a term, Home Groups will be cancelled in order to encourage people to attend the prayer meeting).

For most of us praying isn't easy ! I find it much easier to pray with other people and that it is good to go to a prayer meeting where I know roughly what is going to happen and for how long ! I hope that this initiative will help you as much as I think it will help me to get prayer where it needs to be - at the centre of our church life !

Tim Storey

Prayer @ BFPC

Tuesday 28th February



9am at BFPC.

12noon at Langton.

8pm at BFPC.

Each prayer meeting will last one hour.

Please send prayer requests to

01258-456260

or

prayer@bfpc.org.uk

by Sunday 26th February.

Thank You from Catherine

From some of the reactions that I received after it was announced that I was leaving the administrator's job, I know that this move was unexpected and possibly something of a shock!

It was a decision that took about 8 months to finally reach as I had the feeling that God was sending me the message that it was time to move onto something else but I didn't understand why! I thought that I was quite happy and doing a fairly good job.

This nagging kept going all through the summer and into the autumn until suddenly it became clear that this is what I had to do.

Looking back over the last four years, there have been some wonderful times and experiences that I have shared with many of you as we got to know each other and worked together to help with the day to day running of the church. There have also been some "not so nice" times but I know that everyone is now heartily sick of the boiler and heating problems so I won't dwell on that!

I think it is fair to say that I still do not totally understand what God has in store for me from here but I feel more than ever that he had a plan for me when I started working at the church and that the next part of his plan will be revealed to me in time. I just need to be patient and keep listening.

All I can do for now is to thank each and everyone of you who has been there to chat to, moan to, laugh with and cry with and to say that if Jackie receives just a small amount of the love and support that was given to me, then she will want for very little as she takes a fairly tough but very rewarding job.

Catherine Johnson

News from Langton



January has been quite an eventful month, we enjoyed the services transferred from BFPC, the warmth of the fellowship as well as the building. We were well represented at the United Service on the 15th and joined in with the fun at the New Year Party.

It was a great success and we hope you will be able to join us to enjoy similar frivolity at the **FAMILY FUN DAY** on **JUNE 24th** this time outdoors in the sunshine in the gardens of **The Old Rectory at Langton**. Please put the date in your diary **NOW**.

We congratulate Nicholas Gumery and Hayley Giles on their marriage on Jan.28

Having paid our share in fall for 2005 we have decided that we should follow biblical teaching and tithe our income for 2006. As a start we are committed to giving 5% shared between SIAM Care - the society who are currently supporting Josh Tun Pe - and, at home, the work of Ken Reynolds with the youth in the Blandford Schools. We still intend to give our Christmas Carol service collection to Mercy House Mission in Thailand and to participate in the Save the Children sponsored walk in Salisbury in May. This is just one way in which we can thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us. Thank you for your support. God Bless each one of you and all those you love.

Barbara Ward

You are invited to

The Blandford AGM

Thursday 30 March @ 7.30pm

The Langton AGM

Sunday 2 April @ 12.15pm

Put these in your Diary Now!

Parish Info + Diary



Rector: Rev Tim Storey
 2 Portman Place
 Blandford Forum DT11 7DG
 Telephone: 01258-480092
 Email: tim@bfpc.org.uk

Curate: Rev Martin Court
 17 Bayfran Way
 Blandford Forum DT11 7RZ
 Telephone: 01258-489321
 Email: martin@bfpc.org.uk

Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Blandford Forum

Office: Telephone: 01258-456260
 Email: office@bfpc.org.uk

Administrator: Jackie Poynter
 jackie@bfpc.org.uk

Receptionist: Su Tomes
 su@bfpc.org.uk

Assoc Minister: Rev Christopher Dunn (456843)

Readers: Pat Harris (452863)

Jennie Rake (
 Osbert Tun Pe (450891)

Wardens: Angela Hird (456294)

Stuart McAinsh (459394)

Treasurer: Terry Hawthorn (450156)

Parish of All Saints, Langton Long

Wardens: Barbara Ward (452707)

Colin Miles (452010)

Treasurer: Charles Culshaw (453042)

Please note that the Rector's day off is Friday and the Curate's day off is Monday. They are usually unavailable from 5.00-7.00pm each evening.

For all other contact details, please phone the parish office or see the web site.

Usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

Tuesdays at 8.30am - United Prayer Meeting.

Thursdays at 9.30am - BCP Holy Communion.

Fridays at 10.00am - Teddy Bear Club.

Saturday Morning - Coffee House.



Sun 5th 10.00am Holy Communion at BFPC
 11.00am Morning Prayer at Langton
 6.30pm Evening Worship at BFPC

Tues 7th Cancer Care Snowdrop Service
 7.30pm @ BFPC

Wed 8th Focus "We Believe in the World"

Thu 9th Langton PCC Meeting

Sun 12th 8.00am Holy Communion at BFPC
 10.00am All Age Worship at BFPC
 11.00am Holy Communion at LL
 6.30pm Evening Worship at BFPC

Wed 15th Focus Social Evening

Sun 19th 10.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC
 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL
 6.30pm Holy Communion at BFPC

Wed 22nd Focus "We Believe in Jesus"

Thu 23rd BFPC PCC Meeting

Sun 26th 10.00am Holy Communion at BFPC
 11.00am All Age Worship at LL
 6.30pm Prayer Concert at BFPC

Tues 28th *Prayer@BFPC Day* (See Article !!)

Wed 25th No Focus Groups

Weddings

January 28th

Nicholas Gummery and Hayley Giles (at Langton)



Funerals:

January 5th - Charles Edward Clements(at BFPC)

"Outlook" is Monthly News from Parishes of Blandford Forum and Langton Long in Dorset.

Mission Statement: "To Discover and Nurture Relationships in Jesus Christ."

Blandford Vision Statement: "To see every road in Blandford Forum baptised in the love of God."

Langton Vision Statement: "To build a joyful Fellowship of Healing and Wholeness."

The parish office is open 9.30-12noon each weekday morning.

Parish Office: 01258 456260 Email: office@bfpc.org.uk Web Site: www.bfpc.org.uk