

Parish Info + Diary



Rector: Rev Tim Storey
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Curate: Rev Martin Court
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Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Blandford Forum

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Administrator: Jackie Poynter
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Receptionist: Su Tomes
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Assoc Minister: Rev Christopher Dunn (456843)

Readers: Pat Harris (452863)
Jennie Rake (451186)
Osbert Tun Pe (450891)

Wardens: Angela Hird (456294)
Stuart McAinsh (459394)

Treasurer: Terry Hawthorn (450156)

Parish of All Saints, Langton Long

Wardens: John Hellewell (450455)
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.

"A Summer Soiree"

A summer evening in the grounds of "The Old House" Blandford Forum.



Saturday 15th July
7.30 - 10.00pm

Tickets £5 (adults only !!)
available from the Parish Office
(includes wine and nibbles)

Posh gear only !

Funerals:

June 7th - Mary Violet (Pat) Logan (at Poole)
June 27th - Hubert John Trenchard (at BFPC)

Wedding:

June 3rd - Richard David Young
and Helen Caines (at BFPC)



Langton News

On 17th June, Langton enjoyed an Evensong Service led by the Choir from Bemerton Church in Salisbury. This was preceded by a delicious afternoon tea at the Old Rectory !



The PCC has been discussing the best way forward for the evening service which we share with Blandford as well as the possibility of offering extended communion to the housebound in the village. The various works planned for the Church building are making slow but sure progress, as is the building towards our vision of a joyful community of healing and wholeness. We look forward to joining with Blandford at Martin's Priesting and the lunch together on Sunday 2nd July. There is also the popular summer lunch at the Rowlands on 27th July to look forward to !

Tim Storey

Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - July/August 2006

"Holy Saturday" is one of the strangest days in the Gospel Story. Good Friday has happened and Jesus' body is in the tomb ... but Easter Sunday has yet to dawn and bring with it the hope of new life and resurrection. There is a pause, a break a day when nothing happens ...

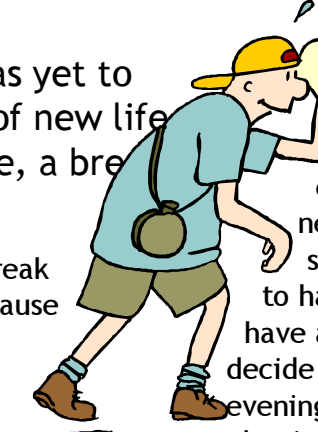
Holidays are useful times to allow for a break between the old and the new, a time to pause and allow space to reflect on what has happened before embarking on something different. So often in life, and especially in the life of the church, our "busyness" takes over and we do not allow ourselves the chance to take stock.

"Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment." Luke 23:56

A recent PCC meeting was doing just this and came to the conclusion that there had been so much change over the past few years, that there was a need for a pause, to catch our breath, before we embark on the new things which we believe God is calling us to. A military person described this as a "tactical pause" - the time when an advancing army stops and stakes stock, allowing for supplies of fuel, food, water and all other resources to catch up. There is a sense that this is where we are at the moment as a church - we are having a pause in the changes which have happened and using the opportunity to "take stock" of what we need to do.

One area in which this is the case is the evening service. Over the past few years, there has been considerable growth in the morning congregation at BFPC and, as a result, we have focussed a lot of energy

"We need a break"



into this. At the same time, the evening service has struggled to make an impact in the life of the church. Both PCCs have been looking at how best to approach this and have come to the conclusion that there is a need for a new style of service, along the lines of a New Wine style of worship - but that the best place for this to happen is in the new church hall. As we will not have a hall for maybe another year, the PCCs have decided that it is right to have allow for a pause in the evening service in the intervening year. As a result, the plan is to have one Sunday evening service a month, alternating between a Celebration, a service of Healing and Wholeness and BCP Evensong. This "tactical pause" will, we believe, allow us to put more energy and effort into the new service when (not if) it begins.

One of the issues which this whole idea raises is the temptation to pause and not get going again. It is like the wagon train that sets up camp for the night and wakes up the next morning thinking "It's nice here, lets stick around a while" - and never moves on again. Many people feel that they have "done their bit in the past and now it is someone else's turn". Sadly, the result is that the majority of the work in the parishes is done by a willing minority and the real possibility that some activities in the life of the church will stop happening because there is nobody willing to volunteer for them.

Holy Saturday is a vital part of the Gospel Story - the "tactical pause" before the explosion of new life on Easter Sunday. Enjoy the summer and all it's opportunities to "take stock" - but be ready to move on, together, in September as God leads and equips us for the next part of our journey !!

Tim Storey

"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

25th July - Prayer Day at BFPC

9.00am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8.00pm @ BFPC

Please send requests to 456260 or prayer@bfpc.org.uk or use the pews cards - by Sunday 23 July

Please note that there will not be a prayer day in August.

My Story ... by Avril Steel

I grew up in a church going family in Zimbabwe and committed my life to Christ as a teenager. I went to university in South Africa and, for various reasons, spent some years being very half hearted about my faith. My love for God grew lukewarm though I never stopped believing in Him.

Six years later, back in Zimbabwe, I ran through a glass door in someone's home. Unfortunately it was not the safety glass you would find in a door nowadays, so the glass broke into huge jagged pieces as I fell and my legs were cut badly and deeply. Friends wrapped me up in towels and rushed me to hospital, fearful that an ambulance might not arrive in time. On the way to the hospital, I became extremely calm and was aware of an indescribable peace. I was convinced I was going to die but knew with absolute certainty that even that would be ok and that there was nothing to fear.

I spent two weeks in hospital before being discharged in a wheelchair. Whilst in hospital, two things happened: firstly I learned that simply because I had turned away from God did not mean He had forgotten about me. His love for me was as strong as ever and He was in fact watching over me. Running into the glass door had been my fault entirely but the surgeon later described to me how the piece of glass which cut my thigh had gone within a fraction of a millimetre of my main artery, before turning for some reason and scraping along it so that he could see it pulsating but intact. He had never seen anything like it and I knew then that it was miraculous and that God had protected me.

Secondly, I was visited by a retired priest. Having him stand by my bed each day led me into God's presence in a way I had never known before. His experience of Jesus was awesome and something I came to thirst for. He was like a transmitter of God's love and reality. So began a long and wonderful friendship in which I learned that there was more to having a relationship with Christ than just what I had been doing. I asked my friend why my life seemed so full of ups and downs and he asked me about my prayer life - I could see no connection he taught me everything he knew about talking with and listening to God, and living in His presence. I realised that my emotions, my mind, my faith, everything I am only make sense when I am living rooted in God. I now look back and can see God's hand on every step of my life. I am so grateful for the prayers of people in my life and I am thankful that God used what was an awful situation to touch me so powerfully and in a way that literally changed my life.

Avril Steel

PS Alan, Avril, Bronwen and Ciaran Steel are moving to Catterick in July.

News In Brief ...

On Yer Bike...

The Dorset historic Churches Sponsored cycle ride takes place on Saturday September 9th. Are you interested in cycling or walking to as many churches as possible? If so, please collect a sponsor form from the office!



Confirmation...

We have booked a Confirmation Service for Friday 24th November in BFPC with Bishop Tim. If you (or someone you know) is interested in being confirmed, please would you let Tim or Martin know. There will be a Confirmation Class happening during the autumn.



Bottle Tops...

Many thanks to those who have contributed milk bottles tops, these have been crushed down and some how funds have been raised to provide wheelchairs. This company has now unfortunately gone bust, so we no longer need bottle tops. However, we have had a request from Treads for any bath/shower products, toothbrushes, soap etc. These are greatly appreciated by the young people they are issued too. If you feel it would be helpful to support the youth of Blandford in this way, please drop them in in the office.

What about the Hall ...?

There have been several meetings with representatives of North Dorset District Council and the PCC is currently debating the best way to respond to these discussions ... there may be some news in the coming weeks, so keep watching this space !!

Our usual Weekly Events change @ BFPC ...

Thursdays at 9.30am BCP Holy Communion - continues through the holidays.
 Fridays at 10.00am Teddy Bear Club - happens in Term time only.
 Saturday Morning Coffee House - continues through the holidays.



Sat 1st	Martin Court is Priested at Salisbury
Sun 2nd	10.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at LL Followed by "Bring a Picnic" Lunch at Archbishop Wake @ Fairfield Road 6.30pm Evening Worship at BFPC
Wed 5th	Focus Groups "We believe in Heaven"
Sun 9th	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
Tue 11th	7.45 Home Group Leaders at Rectory
Wed 12th	Focus Groups "We believe in Church"
Thu 13th	7.30pm Langton PCC Meet
Sat 15th	"A Summer Soiree"
Sun 16th	10.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL 6.30pm Evening Worship at BFPC
Wed 19th	Focus Groups "What we believe now!"
Sun 23rd	10.00am All Age Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL 6.30pm Evening Worship at BFPC
Tue 25th	Prayer@BFPC Day
Thu 26th	7.30pm BFPC PCC Meet
Sat 29th	New Wine Begins
Sun 30th	10.00am United Service at BFPC 6.30pm BCP Evensong



Please note ... There are no J-team, Incredibles or Thirst Meetings or Evening Services in August

Sun 6th	10.00am All Age Communion at BFPC 11.00pm Morning Prayer at Langton
Sun 13th	8.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.00am All Age Worship at BFPC 11.00am Holy Communion at Langton
Sun 20th	10.00am All Age Worship at BFPC 11.00am BCP Communion at Langton
Sun 27th	10.00am All Age Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at Langton

Have a great Summer



News From Rosy Coldwell ...



I am nearly two thirds of the way through my three month placement at the Dorset County Hospital which is part of my ordination training. I have really missed seeing you all and being able to worship at BFPC and am looking forward to coming back in August.

The placement has been a challenging but very valuable experience. There are so many frightened, anxious and sometimes angry people who are suffering and dying and wondering 'Why me?' and no one can give them an answer. On the other side of the coin, when I have been asked to do some visiting and despite feeling very vulnerable and inadequate, I have come away more blessed than intimidated because I have seen God at work in seemingly hopeless situations. I have seen many patients courage and faith in the face of serious illness, doctors and nurses expert and diligent caring, and the chaplains' and volunteers' determination to persevere in bringing the presence, comfort and love of Christ to patients and staff alike, whenever and wherever they can. God bless you all and see you soon, Rosy.