

Parish Info + Diary



Rector: Rev Tim Storey
2 Portman Place
Blandford Forum DT11 7DG
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Curate: Rev Martin Court
17 Bayfran Way
Blandford Forum DT11 7RZ
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Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Blandford Forum

The office is open 9.30-12.00 weekday mornings.
Telephone: 01258-456260 Email: office@bfpc.org.uk

Administrator: Jackie Poynter
jackie@bfpc.org.uk
Receptionist: Su Tomes
su@bfpc.org.uk
Readers: Jennie Rake (451186)
Osbert Tun Pe (450891)
Wardens: Angela Hird (456294)
Stuart McAinsh (459394)
Treasurer: Heather Stringer (454864)

Parish of All Saints, Langton Long

Wardens: John Hellewell (450455)
Colin Miles (452010)
Treasurer: Charles Culshaw (453042)

Please note that Tim and Martin's day off is Friday.
They are usually unavailable between
5.00 and 7.00pm each evening.

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

Funeral:

January 29 - Jean Marie Christopher
Aged 73 (At Langton)
Feb 8 - Nigel Barry Port - aged 62 (at BFPC)



Our usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

Thursdays at 9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Fridays at 10.00am Teddy Bear Club
Saturday Morning Coffee House



Sun 4th	<i>"Worship is ... Sacrament"</i> 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at LL
Wed 7th	Focus Groups: "Worship is Sacrament"
Thu 8th	7.30pm Langton Long PCC at Rectory
Sun 11th	<i>"Worship is ... Nourishing"</i> 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL
Not All Age!	
Mon 12th	8pm BFPC: "Being a Welcoming Church" (See the Article to find out more!)
Tue 13th	7.45pm: Wedding Preparation @ Rectory
Wed 14th	Staff Meeting at the Rectory
Wed 14th	Focus Groups: "Worship is Nourishing"
Sun 18th	MOTHERING SUNDAY <i>"Worship is ... Relationship"</i> 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Worship at BFPC 11.00am Holy Communion at LL 6.30pm Service of Healing and Wholeness at BFPC
Please note	
All Age	
Service at BF!	
Tue 20th	7.45pm: Wedding Preparation @ BFPC
Wed 21st	Focus Groups: "Worship is Relationship"
Sat 24th	7.30pm: Royal Signals Gala Concert
Sun 25th	<i>"Worship is ... Listening"</i> 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL
Tue 27th	Prayer@BFPC Day
Wed 28th	Focus Groups: "Worship is Listening"



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - March 2007

"Welcome !?"

A man was visiting a Church whilst staying with friends. At the end of the service, he moved towards the place where Coffee was being served. A lady turned to him and said "I am sorry - Coffee is only for regulars". Tragic, but true ... a story reported last Autumn in the Church Times. Of course, we wouldn't be like that, would we would we ? No, I am confident we wouldn't - many people have told me how the warmth of the welcome they have received has been a key factor in their attending BFPC. So that's all right, then. Sorted. No need to worry about that ?

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37

As parishes, our Mission "To Discover and Nurture Relationships in Jesus Christ", and that means that we want to enable *EVERYONE* to discover and grow a relationship with Jesus Christ. That includes those who have come to one of our Churches as a visitor to the town or someone planning to get married in the Church or is interested in having their baby baptised or is facing a crisis in their life and wonders if going to church will help or ... a hundred other good reasons.

They may not be told that "Coffee is only for regulars", but is there really that much difference in being left standing alone, not knowing what is happening or where to sit or what to do? The time we spend over coffee chatting with friends is a valuable and special time - but there is a danger that we can see it as "our" time and fail to recognise the needs of those who are visiting us that day.



Most of the time, we are quite good at this! But we cannot afford to become complacent and think that "someone" will do it - that "someone" might be us ! **Actually, this is a job for EVERYONE !**

So what can we do about it? We can think about it and encourage each other, yes, but to actually learn how we might do it better is a good idea, too. So we are planning to do two things ...

- "Sidesmen" are now going to be called "Welcomers" and we are aiming to build a team whose specific job on a Sunday morning is to make sure that visitors receive a welcome that makes them feel comfortable and loved.
- We want everyone to think in this way, not just those who have the Sunday morning "job", so we want to encourage everyone to think about this.

At 8.00pm in BFPC, on Monday 12th March, *EVERYONE* is invited to an evening "Making the Church a Welcoming Place". Whether or not you are part of the official welcoming team, **YOU** are a welcome - and we hope you will feel it!

Tim Storey

"Outlook" is Monthly News from the 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."

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



Sunday 18th March at 6.30pm
**Holy Communion With
Prayer for Healing and
Wholeness**

Tuesday 27th March
Prayer Day at BFPC
9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC
Prayer requests to 456260 or
prayer@bfpc.org.uk or pew cards
by Sunday 25th March

The Band of The Royal Corps of Signals



Gala Family Concert

**7.30pm - Saturday 24th March
Blandford Forum Parish Church**

A "Something for Everyone" Programme...
"Big stuff" such as "Aida", "Force of Destiny", "Shine as the Light", Handel's "Messiah" as well as "light entertainment" !

**Tickets: £5 Adult + £3 Children
£15 Family Ticket (up to 3 children)**

**Tickets available from:
The Parish Office
and "Set Fair 4 Trade"**

Bring Your Friends !!

"Making the Church a Welcoming Place"

**Monday 12th March
8pm @ BFPC
An evening for everyone !**



**The AGMS
Are Coming !**

Blandford AGM

7.30pm - Thursday 19 April

- Hear reports on the life of the church.
- Elect Church Wardens.
- Elect six members of PCC.

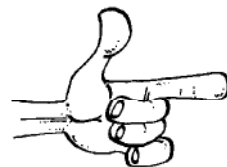
Langton AGM

12.15pm - Sunday 25th March

- Hear reports on the life of the church.
- Elect two Church Wardens.
- Elect two members of PCC.
- Elect one member of Deanery Synod.

Please Note !

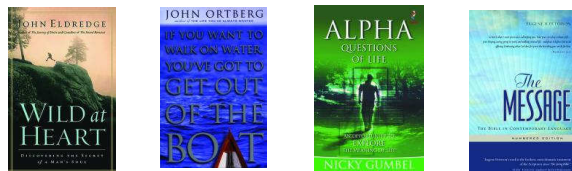
In order to vote or nominate people for these meetings, you need to be on the "Electoral Roll" (the membership list) of the Parish.



The roll is being completely revised this year so even if you have been on it in the past, you need to fill in a new form for this year. Please get in touch with the office if you need a form !

**Put these in your Diary ...
... and please come along !**

**Have You Had A Look At
The BFPC Bookstall Yet ?**



Day of Prayer for Burma

March 11th 2007 - 'Who is my neighbour?'
"Burma, a country of 50 million people is ruled by fear. A military machine of 500,000 soldiers denies the whole nation of its most basic rights." (Burma Campaign, UK)

'Let every person', said Paul, 'be subject to the governing authorities' (Romans 13). These words have often been used by Christians as pretext for a passive uncritical attitude to the governments of their day. Yet we see in the book of Acts that the leading apostles are involved in a series of skirmishes with the governing authorities - both Jewish and Roman, religious and secular. Stephen pays with his life for his outspokenness before the Sanhedrin, and Paul extracts an apology from the Philippian magistrates for unjust beating and imprisonment. Herod, Felix, Agrippa - it cannot be said that the apostles submitted meekly to any of them.

The crisis in Burma results from grotesque injustices committed by a powerful military regime that has triggered thousands of innocent people to flee their homes - Whenever I pause and think about it seriously, I invariably end up in silent weeping, and I know that the suffering of my people need more than sympathy and tears. The people of Burma, regardless of politics, ethnicity or religion, have suffered for more than 30 years of civil-war and military oppression. After decades under a brutal military regime, a widespread movement for democracy culminated in the massacre of thousands of demonstrators throughout the country in 1988.

The military dictatorship bowed to intense international pressure and held elections in 1990. The National League for Democracy Party won over 80% of the votes but the military responded by ignoring the results and imprisoned many rival politicians. Among those imprisoned was the leader of the NLD, Aung San Suu Kyi - this imprisonment has been extended for an indefinite period.

Elected members of parliament and other pro-democracy people fled into exile. Those who stayed behind were arrested, tortured or executed. Since that time in an effort to stay in power, the military dictatorship continued systematically repression against its own people especially against ethnic minorities and pro-democracy groups. And the Church in Burma? The Church began in the 1500's, with further growth in the 1800's. A rough estimate place the percentage of Christians at over 7%, most concentrated among the ethnic minorities.

The military junta uses religious difference to stir internal divisions and hatred. Persecution is wide spread. Ethnic minority and Burmese Christians are the main targets. Even under persecution the Church stands as a witness for Christ and grows.

You will not find much about Burma on the evening news. One of the ways to fight the fear in Burma is for us to find out what is going on there. We can start the battle today with five simple steps: know, pray, act, share and give. The most important step is to pray. When we pray, we acknowledge that we cannot do this on our own and that we need intervention from the God who cares. My people in Burma need our prayers.

The question, then, is: What should we do when we are faced with injustice? Must we be blind to the suffering of our neighbours? Or, must we allow ourselves to be interrupted by the mugged man and make a difference in the lives of to others? Here are a few suggestions:

- Pray for those who have been displaced to find a safe place to live.
- Pray that they will have enough food, medicine and adequate shelter.
- Pray for their persecutors: the Burma Army.
- Pray that the eyes of the world would be opened and that God's people everywhere will choose to act instead of standing by and watching.
- Pray that those on the run will continue to endure and not lose hope.



Osbert Tun Pe
Osbert is the BFPC and Langton Rep for Christian Solidarity Worldwide

News From Langton Long

Our AGM will follow All Age Worship on March 25th - please join us, members of BFPC too, to play a part in the present and future development of our Church and closer links between our parishes. PRAY for us, come with questions, with ideas, with constructive criticism and to give encouragement.



By the grace of God we are a living, loving fellowship which seeks to express the welcome, the joy and peace to be found in a real relationship with Jesus Christ.

There have been further holdups with the progress of the Building plans for All Saints - please pray that God would "make straight" the path towards fulfilling the Vision for the Building.

Barbara Ward