

Parish Info + Diary



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

The office is open 9.30-12.00 weekday mornings.
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Administrator: Jackie Poynter
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Receptionist: Su Tomes
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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.

Our usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

Thursdays at 9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Fridays at 10.00am Rainbow Club@Woodhouse Gardens
(Formerly "Teddy Bear Club"!)
Saturday Morning Coffee House



The Summer series of Sermons and Home Groups is "Christian Community" ... What does it mean to be Church?

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|----------|--|
| Wed 2nd | Staff Meeting |
| Wed 2nd | 7pm at Winterborne Stickland Commissioning of LPAs |
| Wed 2nd | Focus Groups: "Worship is ... for Life" |
| Thu 3rd | 7.30pm Langton Long PCC at Rectory |
| Sat 5th | 7.30pm East of England Singers "A Summer Serenade" |
| Sun 6th | "Church ... Built to Last" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at LL Georgian Fayre @ BFPC |
| Mon 7th | Focus Groups: "Built to Last" |
| Wed 9th | |
| Sun 13th | "Church ... Everyone's Involved" 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Worship at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL Focus Groups: "Everyone's Involved" |
| Wed 16th | |
| Thu 17th | Ascension Day (BCP HC at 9.30am) |
| Sun 20th | "Church ... Everyone's Invited" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Holy Communion at LL 6.30pm Celebration at BFPC |
| Mon 21st | 8pm Home Group Leaders at Rectory |
| Tue 22nd | Prayer@BFPC Day |
| Wed 21st | Focus Groups: "Everyone's Invited" |
| Thu 22nd | 7.30pm BFPC PCC at Rectory |
| Sun 27th | Pentecost "Church ... Power for All" 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL |
| Wed 30th | Focus Groups: Social Action Evening |



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - May 2007

Pruned for Jesus ...

Last autumn, we attacked a part of our garden which was a wilderness and, with a team of friends and helpers, including the frightening sight of a Curate with a Chainsaw, we removed a large amount of greenery and foliage which had been un-pruned for a considerable number of years. In particular, I laid into a plum tree which had grown so much that a large ladder was required to remove the few plums it produced. My way of pruning is pretty devastating - and the resulting tree looks something like an exhibit at the Tate Modern.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ... John 15:1-5

However, there is new growth - all over it this year. It will take a while to regain its former glory and produce the new fruit, but, despite appearances, it is still alive!

BFPC has been through several years of pruning, but I firmly believe that we are now entering a time of growth and, I pray, fruit. If I look around the church, there are a large number of people who God has brought into the Church in the few years I have been here - God has brought you here for a purpose, and that purpose is to be part of the growth in the life of the Church.

Plenty of things have happened in the past year to show this new growth ... but it is clear that there are times when we need to prune back aspects of the life of the Church and there are times when God does it for us - it is not always a painless process, but is necessary all the same. There is plenty of new life but it needs to be sustained. That means us continuing to seek the life which comes from being connected to the Vine, but it also means being willing to be pointed in the right direction and being pruned as necessary by the Vinedresser, God himself.

The main problem with the plum tree in our garden was that nobody had pruned it for so many years that it was growing - but without much fruit. And the result was a mass of branches but few plums. It is a chilling thought, but if we watch the growth in others and do not become growth ourselves, then we become the worthless branches that Jesus talked about being gathered up for the fire.

God has called us to be a part BFPC and he has given us a Mission and a Vision. In the past year we have seen clear evidence of the new growth which is needed to see the fulfilment of this Vision, but pruning is an ongoing and regular part of growth, as much as the right nutrition and water. My prayer is that we shall continue to see growth - but that we shall be willing to be shaped and pruned as well as being nurtured and fed.

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



'An English Serenade'

A concert by the East of England Singers.

English choral and instrumental music including Purcell, Stanford, Vaughan Williams, Finzi, Elgar & Rutter

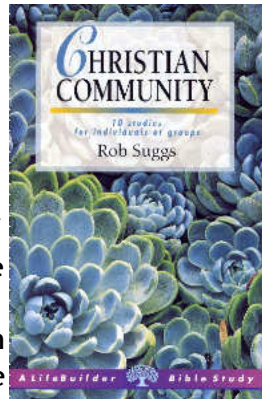
7.30pm - Saturday 5th May 2007

Tickets: £6 - From the Office or "Set Fair 4 Trade"



This Term's Study Series: "Christian Community"

The front page of this edition of Outlook looks at what it means to grow as Christians by being connected to the Vine, a symbol of Jesus himself. This is something we do individually and together as a Church. But what does this mean in practice? In the coming months, we shall be looking at what it means to be "Church", and the Home Groups will be using a Study Book entitled "Christian Community". Copies are available, priced £3.99, on the Bookstall.



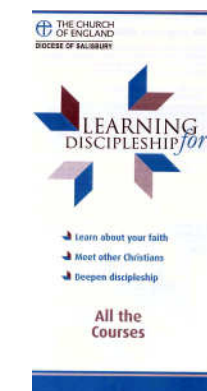
Sudan Garden Party

The Sudan Garden party at South Canonry will be held this year on June 24th from 2.00-5.00pm. This event takes place each year and is one of the main fund raising activities for the Sudan Medical link, raising up to 5000 each year. Entry is just £1.00 and 50p for children. Please put the date in your diary and come and support this enjoyable event.



The Hall - What's Happening?

Some may be wondering what's happening about the decision concerning the Church Hall. Clear and positive progress is being made behind the scenes and we are optimistic there will be some good news soon!



Learning for Discipleship

The Diocese of Salisbury has launched a series of Courses called "Learning for Discipleship" which offers a chance to look at individual topics which will help people grow in their walk with Jesus Christ. The courses can be joined together to achieve The Bishop's Award or a University Certificate or a Degree based round Oxford Brookes. If you are interested, please pick up a leaflet which you will find in Reception.

Keeping the Church Open

It is sad when visitors come to Blandford and find the Church doors closed - some even wonder if they ever open! If sufficient people would be willing to be part of a rota, offering an hour or two each week, then we might be able to leave the Church open longer - if you could help, please contact the Office (456260).

What's Been Happening at PCC?

Recent PCC issues which have been discussed include:

- The leasing of a new colour photocopier.
- Health and Safety issues concerning the use of the Kitchen.
- Building issues including the repair of broken windows and the future of the Cupola.
- The possibility of replacing the Sound System in BFPC.
- The application concerning the Church Hall.

In Addition ...

Jackie Poynter has let us know that she would like to stand down as parish Administrator in the summer. This has given the PCC the opportunity to take a look at the administration needs of the parish and how we address them, which is what will happen in the coming weeks.



Also ...

The PCC will be carrying out a review of the new service structures during June ...

"BlindSpots in The Bible"

by Adrian Plass

Why did Jesus weep at the tomb of Lazarus when he knew his friend was about to be raised to life? Why was it alright for Zacchaeus to give away part of his wealth while the rich young man had to give it all? What about that extraordinary passage in Genesis about angels marrying the daughters of men? Although not offering easy answers, Adrian Plass opens up over 40 blind spots, asking searching questions and responding from his own vulnerable honesty. This is a highly-readable and thought-provoking book which grapples with some of the difficult bits of the Bible highly recommended and on the BFPC Bookstall for £7.99!

Have You Had A Look At The BFPC Bookstall Yet ?

News from Rosy ...

Rosy Coldwell is studying for Ordination through the STETS Training Scheme. She will be ordained in Salisbury Cathedral on 28th September. This is her latest news ...



Dear Friends,
Having reached the last term of my training and attended my last Easter School I am feeling excited and nervous all at once! I have been given a date in July when I will go and see Bishop David and he will hopefully approve of my being ordained on September 29th this year at Salisbury cathedral. I cannot believe that I have only got 2 more essays to write after I have finished the present one on Christian ethics!

When I look back at the selection process in 2004 and all that has happened since then, I feel tremendously privileged to have been able to study theology in depth and to have been taught and encouraged so much by Tim, my tutors in and out of college, my placement supervisor and my spiritual directors. I also could not have stayed the course without all the love and prayerful support from my long suffering family and from all of you dear friends. Thank you all. As Paul said to the Philippians, *"I thank my God every time I remember you"* (Phil 1:3).

While I was attending the Chrism Eucharist on Maundy Thursday at the cathedral I was struck by the story of Mary anointing Jesus. She 'did what she could' to express her love, penitence and devotion to Jesus. I decided there and then to ask the Lord to help me do the same in my ministry, whatever I am doing each day. I also pray that we will all do what we can to reach out to others with God's love.

By the way, if I find that one or two friends from Yorkshire are coming to my ordination, could any of you possibly put them up for a night after the buffet meal at the Crown Hotel, to which you are invited also!

God bless you and with my love and prayers,
Rosy

Tuesday 22nd May
Prayer Day @ BFPC
 9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC

News From Langton Long

Some of us were able to join in the wonderful 'walk of witness' on Good Friday through town, which started with a short service in which Tim challenged us to remember that slavery is not a thing of the past but very much a current issue and to think about the ways it is apparent. It was also encouraging to see the young people volunteering to carry the cross. The afternoon offered another thought-provoking gathering in a different format, 'an hour at the cross', which included a wonderful meditation with slides put together by Martin. I can only recommend that people make time if at all possible next year to join in these events. On Easter day we had a joyous celebration and 33 people attended the service.



The Easter Monday walk starting at Broadchalke was fun and our efforts climbing over stiles and up steep hills were rewarded with spectacular views!

On May 13th the Wessex Walks Committee has organized the annual walk for the diocese in aid of Save the Children. The walk starts and ends in Salisbury and hundreds will take part in the event. All are welcome to join in and bring a picnic! 'All Saints', as in previous years, will be represented there.

One sad piece of news is that Mrs. Abbot died on Wednesday, April 18th and she will be greatly missed in the Langton Long community and further afield. We were always grateful to her for her generous gifts of produce and flowers to the church. A celebration of her life was held at All Saints on Wednesday, 25th April.

We look forward to Barbara Ward's return from New Zealand around May 6th and pray she will return refreshed and well. Eileen Lancaster would like to thank all those she has been unable to reach, for their contribution to the generous gift she received from the congregation on retiring as church secretary.

Annette Orton

Funeral

April 25th Doris Kathleen Abbott aged 80 (at Langton)

Wedding Blessing

James and Sharon Mayo
April 19th at BFPC

