

# Parish Info + Diary



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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?

Sun 3rd	<b>"Church ... Gathered Together"</b> 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC <b>No Morning Service at Langton</b> 6.30pm Evensong at Langton
Wed 6th	Focus Groups: "Gathered Together"
Sun 10th	<b>"Church ... Commissioned Community"</b> 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Worship at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL
Wed 13th	Staff Meeting
Wed 13th	Focus Groups: "Commissioned"
Thu 14th	7.30pm BFPC PCC at Rectory
Sat 16th	<b>The BFPC Murder Mystery Party !</b>
Sun 17th	<b>"Church ... Servant's Entrance"</b> Visit of Sheena McBain from CMS 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Holy Communion at LL 6.30pm Meet Sheena @ The Rectory
Mon 18th	Archdeacons Visitation at Iwerne`
Wed 20th	Focus Groups: "Servant's Entrance"
Sun 24th	<b>"Church ... They'll Know We Are Christians"</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL
Mon 25th	8pm Prayer Ministry Team at Rectory
Tue 26th	<b>Prayer@BFPC Day</b>
Wed 27th	Focus Groups: "They'll Know ..."



# Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - June 2007

## How deep the Father's love...

Martin showed a film at the United Celebration on 29th April to illustrate God's love and the pain of sending his Son as a Sacrifice for us. For Rosy Coldwell, the issues were great, as it recalled for her and Tony the loss of their son, Paul. Here are her thoughts ...

I am glad Martin showed the film even though I could hardly bear to watch it and wanted to run out of church! At the beginning there was such bonding between father and son. They were obviously enjoying each other's company and fishing together; the father passing on his skill to the son who would one day pass on the skill to his son. Only it wasn't going to be like that...

As the father left his son I already had a sense of dread and, sure enough, within 10 minutes the little boy was dead... In a moment of time the tangible joy of that young life was gone for ever from this earth. And that poor father would have to eternally relive that agonising decision to let his child's life go rather than a train full of strangers die in a dreadful accident...

My tears began to flow as I watched that poor father's face - the horror and desperation as he pulled the lever which would mean certain death for his son - and the appalling grief and despair as he carried his little son's limp body home... Tony and I have known that agony and horror of suddenly bereaved parents. It is something we have to hold in our hearts for the rest of our days on earth. We will never forget that appalling grief and despair when we stroked Paul's face for the last time...

During the film I was forced to wonder - Could I have deliberately let Paul go in order to save others? Allow my first born son who loved and lived life to the full to die? To know beforehand that I would never again see the son who longed to be married and have children and see them embrace life as he was doing? Could I have deliberately sacrificed his life to save a group of strangers? I knew as I asked myself that question that the answer was 'No'... It was dreadful enough to be suddenly told that he was dead and to have to go and identify his body... How much more dreadful to have deliberately let him die...

But I know a parent who did just that... someone who did it deliberately so that others could live. He knew the heart wrenching agony and pain that would have to be endured and that He would have to hold in his heart for ever.

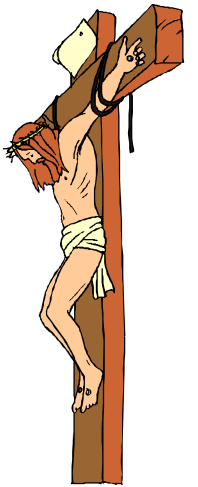
He also knew there was no guarantee that everyone his Son died for would understand or appreciate the sacrifice. Compared to the entire world population there would only be a few. Most would be totally unaware of just how much He was giving up for their sakes...

But, whether or not they would respond to that sacrifice, God the Father loved every single human so much that he was willing to deliberately allow his Son to die. He was willing to go through that horrendous pain because he did not want to lose any of us...

God our Father knows and feels every kind of pain and suffering we experience because he has fully experienced it through his Son Jesus suffering and dying a horrendous death. He does not however, want to leave us despairing in our places of pain for the rest of our lives. He raised his Son Jesus from death so that we could experience new life after suffering and life after death. We can all be given a certain hope of eternal life now and the certainty of reunion with those precious loved ones we have lost from the earth.

Just as that father in the film rejoiced seeing the one girl who realised what a sacrifice he had made for her sake holding her baby, her 'new life' in her arms, so God rejoices over the few who have responded to the sacrifice of his Son Jesus and begin to realise the enormity of his love for them.

So, thank you Martin for sharing that film. I will always dread having to relive the pain we have been through but, even more overwhelming was the realisation of the enormity of God the Father's love for me and for us all in giving up his Son for all our sakes and facing the agony. It helped me to relate to my Father in heaven in a very real way. I can now empathise with his pain in a much deeper way and feel his empathy with my pain. For the rest of my days I want to thank him for his overwhelming love in letting Jesus die so that I could have 'new life'. I just pray that more and more will realise the enormity of God the Father's love for them and respond...



## "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**  
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**Web Site: www.bfpc.org.uk**



## 16th /17th June - CMS Weekend

We are looking forward to welcoming back to BFPC Sheena McBain of CMS on the weekend of Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June.

Saturday 16th June ...

*You are Invited To ...*

*Lady Transome's Garden Party*

*7.45 for 8.00pm - Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup>*

### The BFPC Murder Mystery Party "The Old House", Blandford Forum



Lady Transome is holding a Garden Party in the grounds of The Old House in The Plocks, in aid of the local Cats Home ... but deadly deeds are afoot!

### A Murder Mystery Party in support of CMS Tickets: Adults £6 Young People (u16) £4

Limited number of tickets available from the Parish Office. (This is aimed at those of Secondary School age and above)

### Sunday 17th June ... A Day with Sheena

10.30am @ BFPC...  
Sheena will be speaking about her work with CMS

6.30pm @ The Rectory  
Meet with Sheena

informally and learn more of her work, including "Iki n'iki?", a photo quiz to identify things and their relevance to life/work in Burundi. Come along and find our more!



The Church Mission Society is one of our four link Missions as a Parish. Each year we give 10% of our non-restricted income to these four partners. We also aim

to have a weekend each term which raises awareness of what each partner is doing - and to raise more money to support them!

## What's a Tent Doing Outside of Church?



In recent months, we have seen an enormous increase in the numbers of babies and small children in "Bubbles", the group which meets in the Julian Chapel each Sunday morning. So much so that we have an accommodation problem! As a temporary solution, we are thinking of putting a tent on the grass outside of the Julian Chapel, so that we can continue to run the group ... so if you see a tent, you now know why it's there!



## Broken Windows

On the night of Saturday 12th May, 17 windows were broken on the North Side of the Church and the PCC has now been forced to return to the idea of having grilles fitted.

Thanks to some generous gifts, we shall be able to repair the windows, but this will not happen until the PCC has discussed the idea of grilling the windows.

## Reviewing the New Services

When we started the new patterns of services back in February, we promised that everyone would get a chance to review them in June, so that any necessary "tweaks" could be implemented from September.

With this edition of Outlook, you should find a sheet for you to ponder upon and make comments about the way the new services have happened. Please get your responses (constructive criticism, please!) back to the office by Sunday 17th June.



## Hair Today ...

Thirst (and their leaders!) are going to Soul Survivor in August and to encourage them, we are trying to subsidise the trip. The PCC have budgeted an amount and Thirst are doing some carwashing as well ... but Tim is offering to have his head shaved if people will pledge enough his haircut now depends on who pledges the most money before the service on June 10th. Over to you ...!

Now that is a scary thought ...



## 'One in 10' attends church weekly

(A BBC Online Report)

One in 10 people in the UK attends church every week and one in seven goes once a month, according to research. Tearfund's survey of 7,000 people puts the UK among Europe's four least observant countries. Two-thirds of those polled had not been to church in the last year, except for baptisms, weddings or funerals - but 53% identified themselves as Christian, compared with almost three-quarters who had in the last census in 2001. But it said that its survey indicated that three million people who had stopped going to church, or who had never been in their lives, would consider attending "given the right invitation". This could be a personal invite, the chance to accompany a relative or friend, or the offer of help during difficult personal circumstances, it said.



Tearfund's president, Elaine Storkey, told BBC Radio Five Live that a lot of people would be unsure what to expect if they did visit. "The church for a lot of people is a very strange place these days. They're not familiar with what's going on inside the building, with the form of service, with the way people gather, with what they say, how they pray. Tearfund said nearly three million more people would attend regularly if given the "right invitation". The Reverend Lynda Barley, head of research and statistics for the Church of England Archbishops' Council, said Britain was a nation "seeking identity".

National Secular Society director Keith Porteous Wood said the poll provided the "most authoritative evidence" yet that Britain had become an "overwhelmingly" secular society. He said the survey showed that 40% of the population said they 'have no religion' "It shows that two thirds of the UK population 'have no connection' with the church and that only a quarter 'believe in a personal god', just one of the several minimum requirements to qualify as a Christian," he said.

## So what shall we do about it ?

### Funerals

May 10th - George Henry Damon aged 75 (at Poole)  
May 25th - Denis Hales aged 73 (at BFPC)

### Wedding

Stewart and Nikki McIntosh - May 19th at BFPC



## Tuesday 26th June Prayer Day @ BFPC

9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC

## News From Langton Long



As you know May was rather a wet month. So much so that the six 'All Saints' walkers for the Save the Children walk in Salisbury on the 13<sup>th</sup> May postponed their walk by a week, to what thankfully turned out to be a sunny day. Unfortunately, the beautiful walk was cut short by Eileen having a fall and breaking her arm. We all wish her a speedy recovery, especially as she has only just got over a broken wrist. Our next big event in church will be Evensong led by Peter Dominy and sung with the help of the Bemerton Choir on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please do come and join us.

It was lovely to be able to welcome a couple from the Langton Long parish the other Sunday and we look forward to seeing them again soon.

A number of us who attended the united Taizé service at BFPC last month appreciated a different way of worship.

Annette Orton

## Sunday 3rd June at 6.30pm



## Choral Evensong at Langton Long

with the Choir of Bemerton Church.  
Leader & Preacher: Rev Peter Dominy