

Parish Info + Diary



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Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Blandford Forum

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Wardens: Angela Hird (456294)
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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 Toddlers@Woodhouse Gdns
Saturday Morning Coffee House



Sun 2nd	"God's Love Letter" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at Langton Focus Groups: "Weekend Review"
Wed 5th Thu 6th	7.30pm Langton PCC at Rectory
Sun 9th	"Genesis - The Beginning" 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Worship at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL
Wed 12th Wed 12th	9am Start of Year Schools Service Focus Groups: "Mission and Vision"
Sun 16th	"Noah" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Holy Communion at LL
Tue 18th Wed 19th Thu 20th	Alpha Supper Focus Groups: "Genesis and Noah" "Cut The Carbon" march at BFPC
Sun 23rd	"Abraham" 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL 8pm Home Group Leaders at Rectory
Mon 24th Tues 25th	7.45pm Alpha Course
Tue 25th	Prayer@BFPC Day
Wed 26th Thu 27th	Focus Groups: "Abraham" 7.30pm BFPC PCC at Rectory
Sat 29th	11am at Salisbury Cathedral Rosy Coldwell's Ordination
Sun 30th	"Joseph" 10.30am United All Age Taize Service with Holy Communion at BFPC Followed by Bring and Share Lunch



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - September 2007

The Big Picture

Any good at jigsaws? My favourites were the ones our children had when they were tiny - a maximum of 10 pieces and I could do them quite quickly.. sometimes.

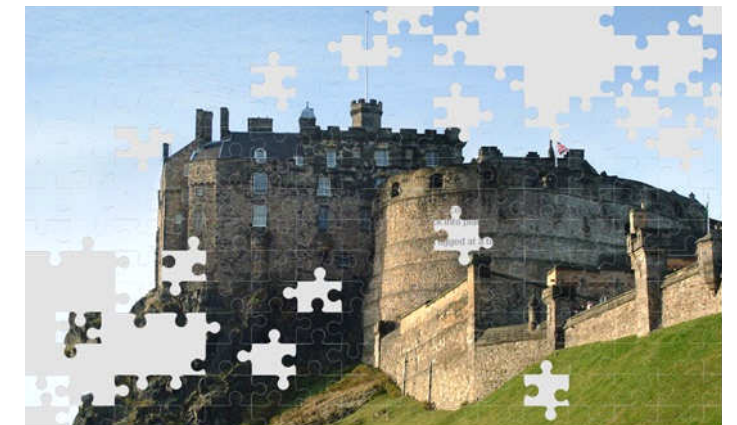
Last year, we bought ourselves a set of jigsaws and they included one which was the picture of a balloon fiesta ... yes, lots and lots and lots of sky. The edges ... no real problem. The balloons ... we got them eventually. But the sky "aaarrggh", as the Beano used to put it.

The "Big Picture" is a vital part of doing a jigsaw puzzle - with it, you know how the pieces fit together and you know what you are looking for. Without it, pieces seem meaningless and confusion reigns.

One of the effects of having our Bible readings on the big screen is that the Bibles in the pews are seldom read except by curious children on school visits. As a result, our awareness of the "Big Picture" of how the Bible fits together has become weaker. The Bible is, of course, not a book but a library of 66 books, telling the story of the world, from its Creation to its ReCreation at the end of time. And, in the midst of that story, is the story of our need for Salvation and the Gift of Jesus Christ to bring it to us.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Tim 3:16

In cinema language, The Old Testament is often sidelined as unimportant - as the "prequel" which is not as important as the main film. When the Star Wars prequels came out, many dismissed them as being "for



the fans only" - it would only be a few who would grasp the significance of the stories they were observing. But the fact is that they enlightened the films which stand as the most popular trilogy of film history (and yes, I think they are better than "Lord of the Rings"!)

In Bible terms, the Old Testament prepares us for the Gospel Story, and the Letters of Paul (and others) help to unpack the meaning of the Christian faith in practical terms. Sadly, far too few Christians have the opportunity to understand how these things fit together - but over the next year, that is what we want to do as Churches. Our themes will be based around "The Big Picture", looking at the Old Testament in the Autumn, the Gospels in the Spring and the New Testament Letters next Summer, with a particular emphasis on how they all fit together to show the picture of Salvation in Jesus.

Of course, 52 weeks is far too short a time to do it in! But, with the Home Groups and a book "The One Stop Bible Guide", we hope that everyone will have the opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of the Big Picture of Scripture as the Inspired Word of God, and, as a result, of foundations of their own faith.

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."

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Outlook Seeks Editorial Team!

Would you be interested in helping to edit Outlook each month and develop it in the future?

Contact Su in the office on 456260 or email su@bfpc.org.uk!



Alpha is Back!



There are many people who go through life wondering what it is all about and trying to make sense of it. There are probably people who live next door or who you work with who wonder if there is such a *thing* or *person* as "God". The Alpha Course is a way of exploring these questions and finding the answers out for ourselves and BFPC is running an Alpha Course during the Autumn of 2007.

So who should come on the course?

- ✓ Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith ...
- ✓ Anyone bringing a friend on the Course ...
- ✓ Anyone who has never been on an Alpha before and would like a "refresher" on their faith ...

If you are interested or want to know more, please contact the Parish Office on 456260 or e-mail alpha@bfpc.org.uk.

Tuesday 18th September: The Alpha Supper

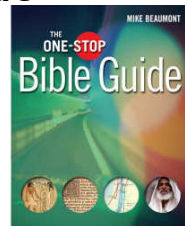
Come and find out more about the Alpha Course and join us for Supper on Tuesday 18th September at The Old House in The Close, Blandford Forum. There will be a chance to meet the people organising the Course and get a taste of what is to come - but without any obligation to come to the Course itself. Come and find out more!

SOS - Please Pray!

Julie Court writes ... "We have a "great problem" in Bubbles that we are out growing the Julian Chapel! We have tried to get permission for a portacabin which would have solved our problems but even though the Town Council gave us the OK, North Dorset sadly has not. Please could you pray as to what God wants us to do now. If you would like to talk to me further, I should be happy to fill you in with more details. Many thanks.

The Big Picture "The One Stop Bible Guide"

To help in our studies over the next year, have a look at this book on the bookstall. This will be helpful in study and something you will use again regularly in the future. At £10, it is a great investment!



November 18th The GIFT DAY for the Church Centre



Things are beginning to happen with the planning and building of the Church Centre - have a look at the display in church to see more. We have something like 3/4 of the money we need, but we still need about £100,000 to complete the project. Whilst we are seeking support from all sorts of places, we are going to be asking everyone to prayerfully give towards the project at a Gift Day in November. More information will come before then, but please start praying - not just for the money side, but for all the details and practical work which is currently underway with the Hall Steering Group!

Rosy's Big Day!

After her years of preparation and training, Rosy Coldwell will be Ordained in Salisbury Cathedral at 11am on Saturday 29th September. If you would like to attend, get in touch with Rosy - but we shall be celebrating with Rosy at the United Taize Communion at 10.30am on Sunday 30th when Rosy will be preaching, and with a Bring and Share lunch



Baptisms

June 24th at Langton	Amelia May Chaffey Grace Lilly Chaffey Benjamin Patrick Smith
July 22nd at Langton	Edward Ronald Oliver Wates
August 5th at BFPC	Lily Carter
August 12th at BFPC	Correy Arthur James Alyson
August 19th at BFPC	Jemima Elizabeth Johnston Charlie Craig Smith

Funerals

July 16th at Poole	Angela Bates (aged 49)
August 21st at BFPC	Florence Mary Ball (aged 73)

Wedding

August 3rd at BFPC	Craig Sheach and Joanne Close
August 25th at BFPC	Gareth Drake and Kirsten O'Brien

My Story

Roger Brown



On 5 August 1997 my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. This day was also our thirtieth wedding anniversary. On 31st December 1997 she died, not of the cancer but of a massive stroke. Up until then I had not been a regular church goer but the Sunday after her funeral I went to church. It was a hope and healing service for the bereaved and for other people going through difficult times. I cried through most of the service.

Afterwards many people, none of whom I had ever met before, comforted me. One couple said you must come and have Sunday lunch with us. I said thank you, that would be nice sometime - they said no, we mean today. So I went and very soon became friendly with them and with many other people in the congregation all of whom were hugely supportive.

In the middle of March 1998, I had been to church and was having coffee again. I was introduced to more people I had never met before including a lady called Eileen. It transpired that she lived literally just round the corner from me so I offered to pick her up the following week to take her to church. We got to the part in the service where we shared the Peace. Because of my situation, she embraced me and kissed me. Immediately I was aware of a voice saying to me that I was going to share the rest of my life with this woman who up until now I hardly knew. On 3rd October 1998 we got married.

The church was full to overflowing. The only other time I had seen the church so full was at Anne's funeral.

And so a new life started but in May the following year I had an attack of angina (I had a heart attack at the tender age of 37). It got worse and after the usual NHS delays at that time, I had an angiogram in October. Because this involves going into a main artery, you are required to rest for a while in bed before they let you sit up. Everything went OK, I got out of bed and was sitting in a chair doing a crossword with Eileen when suddenly I became unwell and collapsed. My heart stopped beating completely for 5 minutes. I was clinically dead but all the time was watching the efforts to revive me - I had an out of body experience.

I went down a long corridor and came to a closed door, but shining around the edges of the door was an intense light and I could hear joyful sounds on the other side of

the door. Then my heart started beating again and I recovered consciousness. Eileen was a delicate shade of grey!

There was another 13 month wait before by-pass surgery. The hospital pastor prayed with us before I went down to theatre and she gave me a small wooden cross which I took with me as far as the anaesthetic room. Only 4 weeks after the operation I was back at work full time.

Every day since, I have looked at that cross and have said thank you Lord for the strength you have given me, for the love and support of so many people and for sharing the Peace with Eileen.

Do You Have a Story to Tell?

The story of what God has done in a life is a powerful witness to his love and we are looking for ways to hear these stories so that others can be encouraged.

If you have a Testimony of a recent event (or even a not-so-recent event!), then please email Tim or the Office with it - we would like to publish stories in Outlook or hear them in a Sunday morning service.

News From Langton Long



Another joyous occasion was celebrated at All Saints on Sunday 22, July when Edward Ronald Oliver Wates was baptised at the All Age service. He was surrounded by many family members and friends and his cousins helped Martin with his sermon!

Langton Long was well represented at the weekend away and we enjoyed getting to know so many more from the Blandford congregation. There was a good sense of unity, food for thought and plenty of challenges to be worked on. We left with a sense of anticipation and excitement as we look to the future.

David Blackwall gallantly held the fort for the members who stayed behind and not only led the service and preached but also played the organ! Thank you, David, and we look forward to hearing your news from Pakistan.

Annette Orton

Tuesday 25th September Prayer Day @ BFPC

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