

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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Office Manager: Su Tomes
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Lay Ministers: 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.
Rosy's day off is Tuesday. The Staff are usually
unavailable between 5.00 and 7.00pm each evening.

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	<i>"Isaiah and Jeremiah"</i> 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at Langton
Mon 3rd	7.45pm Pastoral Care Team @ BFPC
Wed 5th	Home Groups: <i>"Isaiah and Jeremiah"</i>
Fri 7th	7.00pm Civic Carol Service
Sun 9th	<i>"John the Baptist"</i> 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Nativity Service at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL
Weds 12th	Late Night Shopping Events at BFPC <i>No Home Groups this Week</i>
Thurs 13th	Elizabeth Finn Carol Service at BFPC
Fri 14th	Rainbows Toddler Christmas Service
Sun 16th	<i>"The Prophets"</i> 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 3.00pm Carol Service at LL
Tues&Weds	Archbishop Wake Carol Service
Weds&Fri	Milldown Primary School Carol Service
Wed 19th	Home Groups Social Evening
Sun 23rd	<i>"Year Zero"</i> 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL 6.30pm Carol Service at BFPC
Mon 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE 5.00pm Crib Service at BFPC 11.00pm Midnight Communion at BFPC
Mon 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Communion at LL
Sun 30th	9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC <i>(This will be a short "said" service)</i> 10.30am United Worship@ BFPC <i>(Please note - no service at Langton)</i>



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - December 2007

"Who's The Baby ..?"

There is little in life to rival the sense of expectation surrounding a birth. And then there is the analysis - whether they have the mothers nose or the fathers ears. And yet, why is it that they all look like Winston Churchill ...

Considering the expectation surrounding Jesus' birth had been several thousand years rather than the traditional nine months, it is amazing that nobody saw it coming! And when it did, the only ones who weren't surprised were a bunch of eastern star gazers. Over the past term, we have been working our way through the Old Testament and have seen how God made it clear that we needed saving and gave them prototype saviours in people like Noah, Abraham and Moses, so that they would recognise the ultimate Saviour when he came. Using a system of ritual animal sacrifices, God also gave the Israelites an understanding of forgiveness and sacrifice so they would understand the mission of the Messiah when he came. He gave them an understanding of relationship and expressed his deep desire that they would respond - so that they would welcome the Messiah with open arms.

And you know the rest ...

The Saviour, the Messiah, the Christ came, wrapped up in the little body of a baby. He told them they needed a Saviour and he was the one they were looking for - and they didn't understand. Through John, he told them he was the Lamb of God, the ultimate sacrifice for sin - they refused to believe it.

And he told them he was "The Way, the Truth and the Life", the only way to a true relationship with God - and they crucified him.



Every Christmas we all (alright, some of us) go "Aaaah" at the sight of a Crib and the tiny form of God Incarnate, God becoming a human being. Trying to ignore the materialism that is all around us, we get caught up in the Christmas story, but all-too-often, we lose sight of the Bigger Picture. I wondered if anyone look at Jesus and noticed that he had his Father's Heart.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

Jesus came as the ultimate Saviour, Sacrifice and Way to God - and it is my prayer this Christmas and every Christmas that we will all take a fresh look at the baby before us and ask "Who is he?".

Go To Bethlehem ...

When the shepherds got to witness the party in Heaven on that first Christmas night, they were told to go to Bethlehem and see ... and that the sign would be a baby in a manger. In other words, the physical baby was just the start of things, pointing to much, much bigger things to follow. As we come to worship this Christmas, may we see the baby as the symbol of God's love and want to discover the whole story of his life. This Christmas, maybe for the first time, may we be able to fully answer the question "Who's the baby?" with "My Saviour, My Lord and My Friend".

Tim Storey

"Outlook" - 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

Gift Day Raises £82,000!

Thank you to everyone who gave and pledged money!! We are on our way!

The Gift Day Total ...

£82,274

Thank You !!

Thank You!

Thank you for your tremendous support for the Gift Day in November!! The sum of money given is truly amazing and means that we are now able to proceed with the project, in the knowledge that it is financially viable. Thank you to those who came and prayed - the prayers were certainly answered! Thank you to those who worked hard to make the party happen. It was a great night:



Thank you, too, to the Hall Steering Group, who put on a great display to show why we are doing what we are doing - but thank you, above all, for your commitment to the project and your generosity. The final total is beyond what we asked for and will make bringing the Vision to a reality so much easier.

Now What ...??

We are now waiting for the final plans and quantity surveyor reports to appear before work can begin on demolition and building of the new parish centre next spring and summer. There are a number of applications in the pipeline for additional funding and we will have the accurate financial position sometime in the spring. In the mean time, the Hall Steering Group are looking at the fixtures and fittings for the new building and they will keep you informed as to how their work is progressing. But please keep praying and please keep supporting this vision!



"Who's The Baby?"

A Guide to the Best Service to bring your friends along to

Christmas is a great opportunity for people to invite their friends along to a service and to be able to share a little of what it means to Christians. As usual, there are a variety of services happening and here is a quick guide all that's happening

Sunday 16th December - 3.00pm @ Langton A Traditional Carol Service

The Langton Long Carol service is a traditional service of readings and carols led by our Churches Choir.

Sunday 23rd December - 6.30pm @ BFPC A Contemporary Carol Service

The carol service at BFPC is a less traditional service aims to tell the story of Christmas using images and sketches alongside traditional carols and Christmas readings - it is an ideal opportunity to bring a friend.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Monday 24th December - 5.00pm @ BFPC The Crib Service

This is a wonderful time to take a break from all the preparations and remember the real meaning of Christmas. A service is for all ages, but especially the youngest - a joyful opportunity to hear the story and help to put all the figures in the crib.

Monday 24th December - 11.00pm @ BFPC Midnight Holy Communion

This is a formal service of Holy Communion to prepare for the start of Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday 25th December - 9.00am @ BFPC BCP Holy Communion

A quiet service to start Christmas Day.

Monday 25th December - 10.30am @ BFPC Monday 25th December - 10.30am @ Langton All Age Communion

A joyful celebration service with Holy Communion for all ages to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Set Fair 4 Trade

Your local fair trade shop
Jennie Rake writes...



It is now over 2 years ago since we opened Set Fair 4 Trade. We are pleased to bring the shop to your attention or maybe give a gentle reminder that we are open for business at 22 Salisbury Street.

David and I have been Tearfund supporters and sellers of their fair trade crafts for over 20 years. When we moved into Blandford in June 2005 we brought our stock with us. The intention was to carry on selling the stock in the usual way by attending craft fairs and charity events or giving a talk about Fair Trade with a table of stock available for sale. Within 2 weeks of moving into the house the idea of opening a shop took root in our minds, having seen an empty shop premises. David was already working for Southwest Trains, so his role in the enterprise was as business partner and accountant. His degree in Business Finance has come in very useful!

"It's getting closer to Christmas," comments a customer while browsing, "so I'll be in later to do some present shopping." That can be encouraging especially if that customer then returns regularly to buy cards, gift wrap and food throughout the year. Our range of goods has expanded since we opened and it has been important to stock a good variety of merchandise for all tastes and budgets. This season's range has been enhanced by quality organic cotton separates from Bishopston Trading.

We stock Christian books, bible reading notes, CDs and cards for Christian occasions. In the run up to Christmas we sell cards which celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Customers often comment that we stock something that little bit different and they enjoy browsing for that special gift. Our range of hall marked silver jewellery is of the highest quality and not everything in the shop is necessarily shouting out that it is ethnic in origin. The stainless steel range of kitchen utensils are made in Moradabad, but you would never know from their appearance or design. Whether it is a lovely wooden toy, a scarf, some Divine chocolate or a beautifully carved wooden animal you can be sure to see something different in Set Fair 4 Trade. We are well supported by volunteers who take a turn in the shop and are very grateful for their willingness to help us in this practical way.

New customers and helpers are welcome to drop in any time Monday - Saturday 9.30 - 5.00.

Fair trade - not just for Christmas!



If you are interested in joining the group going to Shepton Mallet for the week from 3rd to 9th August, please see Martin or Julie as soon as possible, or phone them on 489321.

Dogs In Church

In addition to the "No Smoking" notice, we have a "No Dogs apart from Guide Dogs" notice in the entrance to Church. For Health and Safety reasons, particularly thinking about refreshments and children in the coffee area, the PCC has decided we need to have a formal policy on this. If you want to know more, please ask the office for a copy.



Baptisms

November 25th at Langton

Rowan Joseph Goddard

Funerals

October 29th at Blandford
November 12th at BFPC

Emily Cole (aged 91)
Leslie Veale (aged 83)

News From Langton Long

November has been a more reflective month, which started with an All Saints Service on the 1st of the month. Twenty of us gathered for the service, led by Rosy and Tim. On Remembrance Sunday the two minutes' silence was ended by Gerry playing the Last Post on the cornet - another contemplative service.



Now we are looking forward to our Advent and Christmas celebrations, starting on December 2nd the first Sunday in Advent. On Sunday December 16th - for those of you who have never visited All Saints before this is a lovely opportunity - we have our **Carol Service** at 3 p.m. with the BFPC Christmas choir, and the service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Everyone is welcome!

It seems a bit premature as I write, but I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the congregation of All Saints, Langton Long, to wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Annette Orton