

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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Office Manager: Su Tomes
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Administrator: Di Jack
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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 Monday. The Staff 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.



Sun 6th	"Resurrection Life For Ever" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at Langton Flower demonstration.
Tues 8th	Home Groups: "Resurrection Life for Ever"
Wed 9th	Home Groups: "Resurrection Life for Ever"
Thurs 10th	Mother's Union@ BFPC at 2.30pm
Sun 13th	"Resurrection Life For Now" 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Worship and Baptisms at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL Prayer Ministry Team training evening
Mon 14th	Home Groups: "Resurrection Life Now"
Wed 16th	Home Groups: "Resurrection Life Now"
Thurs 17th	Mother's Union @ BFPC at 2.30pm
Sun 20th	"CSW Mission Weekend" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC. 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am CW Holy Communion at LL AGM for Langton Long
Wed 23rd	Home Groups: "Prayer Evening"
Thurs 24th	AGM for BFPC@ 7.30pm
Fri 25th	Girls@bfpc Pimms and Planting
Sun 27th	"Healing and Wholeness" 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion with Healing and Wholeness at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL
Tues 29th	Prayer Day 9am@BFPC, 12noon@LL, 8pm@BFPC
Wed 30th	Home groups: "Healing and Wholeness"

Our usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

Thursdays at 9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Fridays at 10.00am Rainbow Toddlers@Church
Saturday Morning Coffee House



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - April 2008

"What Are You Waiting For?"

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8



The weeks that followed the first Easter must have been very confusing for the disciples. Trying to get their heads round what had happened over that weekend, trying to adjust to life without Jesus walking beside them and never knowing when he was going to appear - it must have been a bizarre time!

John's gospel tells of Jesus' extensive teaching on the night of the Last Supper and how it focussed on the work that THEY would do after His earthly work was completed in the hours to come. At the centre of that was the promise of the Holy Spirit, who could only come once Jesus had returned to Heaven (John 16:7). Waiting for something which we cannot see, cannot comprehend and offers unknown, but exciting, prospects is something which brings a cocktail of emotions, from bewilderment to fear, from excitement to nervousness.

So add this to all of the emotions the Disciples had in that post-Easter period, and one can begin to sense that the joy of the Resurrection was tempered with a

little uncertainty as to what would follow. But Jesus, in these words, promised a supernatural power to achieve an earthly purpose - to be his witnesses at home (Jerusalem), in the difficult places (Judea and Samaria) and in unknown places (the ends of the earth).

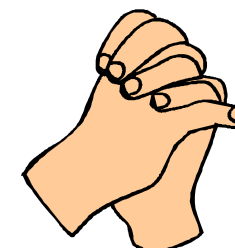
A few weeks ago, some of us met with Martin Cavender, the Speaker at our Church Weekend next year and someone asked him what changed him from being an ordinary lawyer to transform him to be the international speaker he is now. His reply was simply that he saw in Christians something that he did not have - and wanted. Being witnesses is not about spouting Bible verses or standing on street corners waving a Bible, it is about being transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit so that what burns inside us draws others to God.

Inside this Outlook you will find a prophetic word for the Church in Blandford which asks about our desire to be transformed by God and to face up to those things which have the potential to dampen the fire within us. Please read it and pray about it - and ask what it might mean in practical terms in your life.



As we leave Easter behind and move into a time of waiting for Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit, my prayer is that we will be willing to take the risk of letting the Spirit do his work of transformation, because that is the only way that we can truly be His witnesses in Blandford.

Tim Storey



Tuesday 29th April

Prayer Day at BFPC & LL

9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC
Prayer requests to 456260 or prayer@bfpc.org.uk
by Sunday 27th April, please!



"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

A Prophetic Word for the Church

God speaks to us in many different ways - and sometimes an individual has a clear sense of a message that God has for his church. Below is one such message - one which has been passed to me specifically for BFPC.



"How many of you are seeking the full transformation of GOD - so often we embrace the Father and the Son but consider the Holy Spirit insignificant to His Kingdom. Yet it is the Spirit that is sent to change us and only through recognising and accepting Him can we experience the transformation we so long for. GOD wants to speak to all of us, each and every one of us, and each and everyone of us can hear Him if we only open our hearts and ears.

His words can sometimes seem hard and addressing things which stand between ourselves and Him is never going to be easy. The very nature of these obstructions mean that they will address painful and difficult feelings, forgiveness, love, hate, acceptance and sin. But He wants us to address these things because to get a clear view of GOD we must clear the path for Him. GOD will only ever ask us to look at things and change things that will have an outcome of blessing and drawing us closer to Him. How many of us are blocking the voice of GOD because we just don't want to address that which stands between us and Him - because we think it is too painful. The truth is that when these things are addressed, the pain, hate and unforgiveness are washed away and replaced by a closeness to GOD which brings the peace and transformation we all strive for. "

This is a message which offers encouragement and promise - but also comes with a challenge that we need to consider taking the risk that will bring about the transformation that we desire individually and as a Church. Over the coming weeks, we will find this a challenge that returns to us again and again - and my prayer is that it is a challenge we will grasp and grow from as a result.

Tim Storey

May 2nd at 7.00pm

"A Farewell to the Parish Rooms"

An evening to recall the events and history of the Blandford Church Hall over the past 125 years. To find out more, contact The Office.

FORGIVE ME FATHER

I recently had the privilege of hearing Andrew White, the man from Baghdad, preaching on the cost of being a peacemaker. At one point he said something that made me sit up. He said that it is his opinion that the church, as a whole, has for centuries depended on intellect and secular gifts instead of the presence of God manifest in power in every aspect of life.

Later that day I was given this thought: We are all very familiar with what the Word says about the Love of our heavenly Father, I don't know how you understand that. I have always had the thought that as He is God and I am just me He was probably holding something back. But in that moment I was told that he love us all, every person in this world, with all that He is, with all that is in Him. That is why He sent Jesus into this world to tell us of His love and to teach us about His Kingdom. To die on the cross to open up the way for us by his death and resurrection. That as He, God the Father held nothing back then, He holds nothing back now.

Yes this was a rebuke but given with such love. I realised then that I had been creating God in my image instead of the right way round. This changed my whole way of seeing other people- no matter who or what they are, they are loved by our Father in the same way. This leaves no room for judgement, hatred, spite or jealousy or any one of what I see now as emotional sins.



It has changed my way of prayer too. When we pray for people or situations we have asked Him to be with that person or to move into that situation. But our Father who loves us so completely is already there before we get a word out. He promised never to leave us or forsake us. We should then thank and praise him for being there and for all He has done for us and is still doing for us and then present our petition or supplication.

His Father heart so longs to bless us with health, strength, wisdom, security and all else that His Kingdom provides.

Alex McCracken

Flower Demonstration



Do come along and join members of the flower Team as they have a Demonstration on flower decorations from Jo Richards, tutor at Lansdown College, Bournemouth. Tickets are available from the office and cost £5 a head, (to include refreshments). 6.45pm for 7pm start in the church on Tuesday 8th April



The AGM's Are Coming!

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Blandford AGM

7.30pm - Thursday 24 March

- ✓ Hear reports on the life of the church.
- ✓ Elect two Church Wardens.
- ✓ Elect four members of PCC.
- ✓ Elect three members of Deanery Synod.

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Langton AGM

12.15pm - Sunday 20th March

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

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Please Note !

If you are not already on the Electoral Roll, please pick up a form from the office. In order to vote or nominate people for these meetings, you need to be on the "Electoral Roll" (the membership list) of the Parish. If you are not on the roll, you will need to fill in a form - please get in touch with the office

Christian Solidarity Worldwide

April 20th at 9am and 10.30 @ BFPC

The PCC recently agreed to have CSW as one of our four "Mission Partners", the organisations which we support financially and in prayer as a church. CSW do wonderful work to support Christians who are in prison or suffer for saying that they follow Jesus. Mervyn Thomas, the President of CSW will be speaking on April 20th at 9am and 10.30am - come and find out more!

News From Langton Long



During the month of February a carpet of snowdrops has adorned the churchyard again, adding to the peaceful atmosphere. We keep the church open daily from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. and visitors often comment in our guest book how much they appreciate the peace and quiet in the church.

This Sunday we will be celebrating the baptism of William Ramsay and Martin will take the service. We look forward to the church being filled for this occasion.

On Saturday, March 8th you will find some of us at BFPC serving tea, coffee and cake in the morning, and we are looking forward to seeing you there! Friday, 21st March will be another occasion for us to join BFPC, for the Good Friday events. On behalf of all at All Saints, Langton Long may I wish you a joyful Easter.

Annette Orton

A sonnet for Christ's Church in God's world

Matthew 25.40

Behind closed doors let not the world outside
Be lost amid your blissful ignorance
And don't permit the enemy inside
To clear your conscience; sat upon your fence
You are no good to me - I gave you much
So those without could come to me through you
You see my people suffer and as such
To hear their cry's the least that you can do

Now leave your fence, and walk your destiny
For what you do for them, you do for me.

Paul Hutchings

Funerals:

6th March Ernest Miller at Langton

