

Parish Info + Diary



Rector: Rev Tim Storey
2 Portman Place
Blandford Forum DT11 7DG
Telephone: 01258-480092
Email: tim@bfpc.org.uk



Curate: Rev Martin Court
17 Bayfran Way
Blandford Forum DT11 7RZ
Telephone: 01258-489321
Email: martin@bfpc.org.uk



NSM: Rev Rosy Coldwell
12 Stileham Bank
Milborne St Andrew DT11 0LE
Telephone: 01258-837600
Email: rosy@bfpc.org.uk

Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Blandford Forum

The office is open 9.30-12.00 weekday mornings.
Telephone: 01258-456260 Email: office@bfpc.org.uk

Office Manager: Su Tomes
su@bfpc.org.uk
Administrator: Di Jack
di@bfpc.org.uk
Lay Ministers: Jennie Rake (451186)
Osbert Tun Pe (450891)
Wardens: Angela Hird (456294)
Pat Ellen (451023)
Treasurer: Heather Stringer (454864)

Parish of All Saints, Langton Long

Wardens: John Hellewell (450455)
Alex McCracken (459493)
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 2nd	"Time for Ministry" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at LL
Wed 5th	Home Groups: <i>Coursebook</i>
Sat 8th	Going Deeper. Martin Cavender Evening
Sun 9th	"Remembrance Sunday" 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Worship & Baptism at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL 3.00pm Remembrance Service
Wed 12th	Home Groups: <i>Course book</i>
Thurs 13th	MU
Sun 16th	"The Church and Us" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC. 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am CW Holy Communion at LL
Wed 19th	Home Groups: <i>Coursebook</i>
Sun 23rd	"Communion" 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship & Baptisms at LL
Tues 25th	Prayer Day 9am@BFPC, 12noon@LL, 8pm@BFPC
Wed 26th	Home Groups: <i>Coursebook</i>
Sun 30th	"United Advent Celebration" 10.30am All Age at BFPC

Our usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

Thursdays at 9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Fridays at 10.00am Rainbow Toddlers@Church
Saturday Morning Coffee House
Sunday at 6.30pm Evening Praise at the Scout Hut



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - November 2008

"I Do Believe It!"

*"Unless you people see
miraculous signs and
wonders," Jesus told
him, "you will never
believe." John 4:48*



It may be a few years old now, but it is still hard to see (and hear) the actor Richard Wilson without uttering the immortal words "I don't believe it!" The plight of the downtrodden pensioner whose life consists of a series of unexpected calamities, however amusing, is one we may have a certain sympathy for.

I am tempted to ask what is the opposite of this refrain - but somehow I don't think we are likely to utter the words "I do believe it!" with the same degree of passion. It is only people like Peter and Thomas who express such sentiments when coming face to face with the reality of Jesus himself. In John 4, a nobleman came to Jesus and asked him to heal his son and Jesus responded with the slightly strange verse above. It is strange, because it seems disconnected from the story - and we are tempted (as he might have been) to say "Of course I believe in you - I wouldn't have asked otherwise!" But that is not what Jesus is getting at - the first priority in the man's heart, which Jesus sees, is that of the healing of his son. Nothing wrong with that we might say, and yet Jesus seems to be saying that a trust in God is even more important, because a total trust in God includes a built-in understanding that God will also have the

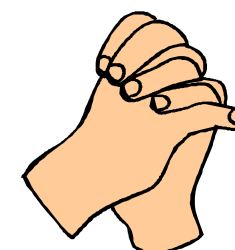
welfare of his beloved son at heart. Jesus is pointing out that the nobleman believes, but only does son according to his agenda. If his son lives, then Jesus can be trusted and he will continue to believe. If not

As you may know, Jesus declares the son healed and, sure enough, on the way home, the nobleman meets his servants who assure him of the fact. But it is only when the nobleman hears that the healing took place at the time Jesus spoke that he is truly convinced - and he and his family believe.

In one sense, Jesus addresses a perfectly normal human need for evidence that will support belief. After all, few of us would trust, say, a rickety bridge without making some kind of assessment as to whether it will bear our weight. Equally, our faith in God needs some kind of assessment as to the weight of evidence that supports the claims of Jesus. Some are fortunate enough to witness a miraculous event which adds enormous weight to the arguments. For some, it is the rational argument that life simply does not add up without a spiritual dimension to make sense of it all.

The key question that this verse challenges us with is simply this: do we believe because we want something from Jesus which life cannot otherwise provide, or do we believe because we have experienced his love and know, in the words of the song, that there is nothing else that compares to the promise we have in Him.

Tim Storey



Tuesday 25th November

Prayer Day at BFPC & LL

9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC
Prayer requests to 456260 or prayer@bfpc.org.uk
by Sunday 23rd November, please!

"Outlook" - News from the Parishes of Blandford Forum and Langton Long in Dorset.

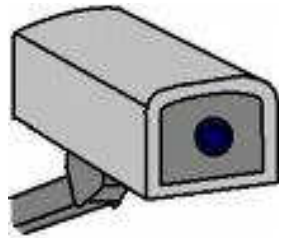
Mission Statement: "To Discover and Nurture Relationships in Jesus Christ."

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



CCTV

Over the past year, the PCC has been working with the Town Council to address the ongoing problem of vandalism and antisocial behaviour

around the back of the Church. As we all know, the combination of rubbish, discarded needles and even human waste, alongside the breaking of windows and graffiti on gravestones and walls, has resulted in hassle for the wardens and staff, as well as some large repair bills for the PCC. Earlier this year, the Town Council put an application in to a PACT, a Police and Community Group, aiming to address this situation with further window grilles and a CCTV system for the church, as well as trying to deal with the overgrown yew trees, and putting railings on the Bath House. The Town Council have been a brilliant partner in this scheme, particularly when PACT declined to give any money to the Church, the Council are fully funding and have managed the installation of a CCTV system and made a very generous donations towards the window guards. Unfortunately, North Dorset Tree Officers will not give permission for any more than a minimal trimming to the trees, but the camera system, consisting of two quality cameras, high up on the church wall, cover the entire area behind the church, including (especially) the area outside the back door. They link to a recording device in the vestry. A notice advises that CCTV is in operation and that the Church may offer the pictures as evidence to the police if appropriate.

Along with many people, I do not like the intrusion of CCTV into modern community life. During our time away, it was noticeable that both Australia and New Zealand had minimal numbers of cameras and that maybe their society was more relaxed as a result. However, the situation around the back of the church has continued to deteriorate and this step, however reluctant, is one which the PCC believes is the only way to improve matters. I am sad that the church building and this area continue to be an outlet for the anger and frustration of some in the community and my prayer would be that the transforming love of Jesus can be brought fully into our town (as is stated in our parish Vision) so that one day, all of these cameras and grilles may be removed.

Parish Centre Update



Snooks have been forwarded a 'Letter of Intent', and are now seeking prices, so that the working drawings can be finalised. Demolition is set for beginning to mid December. Grant applications have been submitted and decisions are being awaited. We received a very generous donation from Garfield Weston Trust for £10,000 and also made approximately £1,500 at the harvest supper and auction of promises. Thank you to all those involved.

Please try and support the planned fundraising events - cavalry band concert, jumble sale and try and think of your own fund raising ideas. Speak to Judith if you have ideas you would like to help organise.



For the past month, a group of people have been meeting at the Scout Hut on a Sunday evening in response to a need to "Deeper" with God in our Church life, in our personal lives and, in particular, how we reach out into our community to see the fulfilment of our Parish Vision of seeing every road in Blandford baptised in the love of God.

Sunday evenings are about:
 Discovering ... the Gifts God has for each of us.
 Nurturing ... the Gifts in a Godly environment.
 Baptising ... ourselves in God in order to know how and when to use them to His glory.

Come along and find out more, 6.30pm on a Sunday evening at The Scout Hut.

Christmas at BFPC and Langton

Over the next few weeks, we shall be planning our services at Christmas and will, as usual, be seeking to put together a choir to lead our worship in the celebration of the birth of our Saviour. Due to the immensely busy diary at present and the availability of some of our music staff, we shall be keeping things more streamlined this year with fewer "performance" pieces as part of our Christmas services. However, we shall still be actively looking to engage the wonderful singing talents we have benefitted from in the past few years - so please keep an eye open for when the Choir Practices begin!



Blandford Mothers Union has been running for the past 30 years. We became a Branch in 1977 with I, Jean Peach as enrolling member, the previous branch having been closed for 14 years. I was leading for 9 years then passed on to others. At this time we had 51 members which included 7 indoor members. Over the years we have had five different leaders, but with a full committee have maintained the Branch and worked with love and friendship and upheld the Aims & Objects of the Worldwide MU and been self sufficient and raised funds for projects, overseas work, disaster funds, holidays for those in need and supported our own church and the deanery. We have attended Diocesan training days and I hope worked to the best of our ability. Now, unfortunately things have changed in Blandford. Our membership has decreased and the presence of active workers and leaders is a problem. We have been taking it turns to keep the Branch open. I wish to retire as Secretary and Organiser. With no one willing to take over, I am afraid the future of the Branch is uncertain. This is somewhat a cry for help for anyone willing to take on the Branch. I will still be a member, and help when I can.

Please! Is there any one out there!!! Who would be willing to help Blandford MU stay alive and active?
 Jean Peach

News From Langton Long



We ended the month of September with a lovely harvest festival service and a bring and share lunch. Our thanks go to Tony Abbot for his generous donation of dahlias which helped to make the church look beautiful. This month we will be looking forward to celebrating the first of Advent with everyone at Blandford Parish Church on the fifth Sunday. It will be a joyous occasion to start the reflective weeks leading up to Christmas.

On Sunday the 19th October we welcomed Ken Reynolds and his wife Trish. Ken works for the Blandford Youth Trust. He spoke about his work with the youth and his empathy and passion for the young folk was very moving and humbling.

On the last Sunday of the month at our All Age service we welcomed Ronald Wates and his family at his baptism celebration.

Annette Orton

An evening with Martin Cavender

Martin will be the speaker at the Church weekend away in March. Martin is a lawyer by profession and now directs "ReSource", a work of renewal for mission in the power of the Holy Spirit, to enable people, churches and communities to draw upon the refreshing, revitalising power of the Holy Spirit.



Come and meet him

**7.30pm - Saturday 8th November
 at
 Blandford Methodist Church Hall**