

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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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 7th "Advent 2"
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC
11.00am Morning Prayer at LL
4.00pm Christingle service at BFPC
Wed 10th Late Night shopping
Blandford School Christmas service
Thurs 11th Elizabeth Finn Carol Concert
Fri 12th Rainbows Christmas Service

Sun 14th "Advent 3"
9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am All Age Worship & Nativity
at BFPC
3.00pm Carol Service at LL
Wed 17th 9am ABW Christmas Service
Thurs 18th 6.30pm Milldown Christmas service
Friday 19th 9am Milldown Christmas service

Sun 21st "Advent 4"
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC.
10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC
11.00am CW Holy Communion at LL
6.30pm Carol Service at BFPC

Wed 24th "Christmas Eve"
5.00pm Crib Service
11.00pm Midnight Communion

Thurs 25th "Christmas Day"
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am AA Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am AA Holy Communion at LL

Sun 28th "The Wise Men"
10.30am AA Holy Communion at BFPC
11.00am AA Worship at LL

Our usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

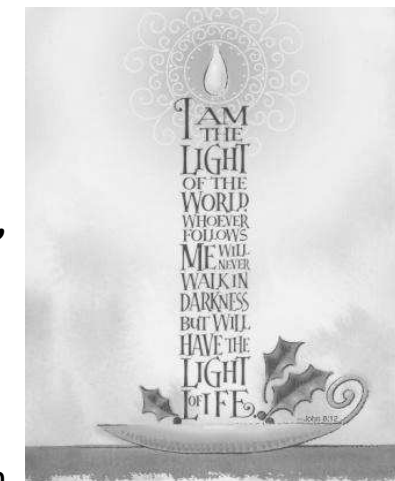
Thursdays at 9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Fridays at 10.00am Rainbow Toddlers@Church
Saturday Morning Coffee House
Sunday at 6.30pm Mpower at the Scout Hut



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - December 2008

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."
Luke 2:10



The past few months have been difficult for many in the nation and in our local community with the fear of recession and job losses, and the associated worries about the future. Over the coming weeks, it may be tempting for us to bury ourselves in the excitement and fun of the Christmas season in such a way as to temporarily ignore these feelings and hope that we can somehow anaesthetise the pain. Certainly the advertisements and Government action will aim to tell us to spend our way out of all this difficulty - but that is to miss out on the profound message of hope that Christmas brings. The carol tells us that "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight" - a phrase which speaks of the reality of a Saviour, born in poverty and deprivation, who offers an inner peace and hope that transcends the difficulties life throws up at us.

This does not suggest that we can or should ignore what is going about us and live in some alternative reality that does not involve suffering. Ostrich-style Christianity does not exist! What exists is the reality of a world of terrible suffering, into which God sent his Son. If the Christian faith is real and true, then it must

be able to be applied into the awful events of the Congo and Mumbai, or the deprivation of places such as the flat in which Baby P lived his short life. We cannot expect there to be extremes where the gospel does not apply or cannot reach. If we focus on the cute baby in the rather cosy manger at the expense of what was happening outside the stable door, we short-change ourselves and God. That is not to say that we have to wallow in the suffering of the world and have a thoroughly miserable Christmas into the bargain. It is about achieving a balance which means we do not end up as the goats in Matthew 25, who were oblivious to the suffering of the world. Groups such as Toybox, Tear Fund and Oxfam offer the sort of presents which benefit others - that is one way we can get the balance right. It is not a question of salving our conscience, either, but wanting to recognise the world into which the infant Christ comes. In theological language, it is called the "Incarnation" - the idea of God coming into the world He created in the form of Jesus - coming to be face-to-face with the suffering of it and address it in person. With Jesus having risen and ascended, God sent his Holy Spirit into the world to fill the Church to continue that work - we are the ones who are called upon to address the suffering world around us. Isaiah wrote "In his name the nations will put their hope." (Isaiah 42:4) - it is in our activity to address the pain of the world (and our own community), that the nations will see the love of Christ at work in us.

My prayer for us this Christmas is that we can hold onto that hope and let it take root, that the peace, joy and the reality of the Prince of Peace will fill our hearts throughout the coming weeks - and spill over into a world of pain and suffering in the whole of the year ahead.



Christingle Service
4pm on Sunday 7th December

"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

The Good Christmas service Guide

So Which is the Best Service to come to ?
Amidst all of the tinsel and trappings of Christmas, it is good to take an hour or so out to remember what it is really all about ... but the problem is often that of working out which is the best service at church to come to for you or for your family. Here is a quick guide to the various services available

Friday 5th December

7.15pm @ BFPC - The Civic Carol Service

Join with the Mayor, the Town Council & other civic leaders, as we launch the official Town Celebrations for 2008

Sunday 7th December

4.00am @ BFPC - The Christingle Service

Joining with the Children's Society, we shall be looking at the symbols of Christmas and what they can tell us about the weeks ahead.

Sunday 14th December

10.30am @ BFPC - The Nativity Service

Our youngsters will be reminding us of the story behind Christmas, as we begin to prepare for the Big Day.

Sunday 14th December

3.00pm @ Langton - A Traditional Carol Service

The Langton Long Carol service is a traditional service of readings and carols.

Sunday 21st December

6.30pm @ BFPC - A Contemporary Carol Service

"Unwrapping Christmas" Take off all the shiny wrappings of Christmas and what will you find?

Wednesday 24th December

5.00pm @ BFPC - The Crib Service

For all ages, but especially the youngest, and is a joyful opportunity for them to hear the story

Wednesday 24th December

11.00pm @ BFPC - Midnight Holy Communion

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

Thursday 25th December

9.00am @ BFPC - Holy Communion Day

A quiet service to start Christmas Day with a Holy Communion Service from the Book of Common Prayer

10.30am @ BFPC - All Age Communion

10.30am @ Langton Long - All Age Communion

2 joyful celebration services for all ages

Parish Centre Update



- The project has formally started. Work continues on the final pricing and drawings.
- Demolition is now planned to start in mid January, with the closure of the car park. This will be followed by the ground works and the panel construction.
- We are imminently expecting outcomes from grant applications for the green aspects of the build and the Church and Community Fund.
- It has been a whole year since the Gift Day. Do raise any issues on outstanding pledges with the Treasurer. Thank you.
- We are sharing a Christmas charity stall with the Guides on Saturday 13th December. We need craft, sweets and cookies to sell please – bring goodies to the office / church / Judith.
- Continue collecting jumble and bring to the office for storage – sale on January 24th. Offers of help to Lou Moogan.
- Send photos from auction promises from your bids to Judith for a fun photoboard!
- Run a coffee morning – any amount collected gets us closer to the total needed. Twenty pounds provides a chair.

Beat the winter blues and promote the next two events to all your friends and neighbours – 'Gone to the Dogs' at the Sealy suite/ Crown, on Saturday 17th January and the Cavalry Band in the church on Friday 30th January. See the posters for more details and get your tickets early, both events are bound to be a sell out.

Divine Disturbance

*Disturb us, Lord, when
We are too well pleased with ourselves;
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little;
When we have arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of the things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the Waters of Life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity;
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push us into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.
This we ask in the name of our Captain,
who is Jesus Christ. Amen*

This prayer was written by Sir Francis Drake. It is a dangerous prayer because it asks God to challenge our self-satisfaction and contentment, and to lead us beyond our 'comfort zones'. It is also an exciting prayer because it is about adventure for the soul, risk-taking and daring to dream bigger dreams.

News From Langton Long



We were very glad to welcome Zak Fonteneau for his baptism and his family and friends filled the church. We look forward to everyone joining us for our carol service at 3pm on Sunday 14th December. This service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Please note there will be no morning service that day at Langton.

Christmas at BFPC and Langton

We are trying to get together a Choir for the two Carol

Services: a more formal one at 3pm on the 14th December at

Langton and the more informal one at BFPC at 6.30pm on 21st

December. I am very grateful to Gerry and Tony who have taken this on - and they are wanting to have a first get together of all who are interested after the United Service at 10.30am on Sunday.

This is an invitation for everyone - if you are interested, please come after the service on Sunday or, if you want to know more, please email Gerry at gerahi@aol.com or Tony at rosemarycoldwell@btinternet.com and they will be pleased to answer



Saturday 17th January at 7.45pm

"Going To The Dogs ..."



An evening of boogie with Dogs Without Collars at The Sealey Suite, Blandford Forum.

Bring your friends and your ear plugs!

Tickets £4 (£5 on the door) from the Parish Office and Set Fair 4 Trade

All proceeds go to the Parish Centre Project

Funerals:

November 18th - Jim Piper (at BFPC)

November 27th - Grace Brickell (at BFPC)

Baptisms:

November 9th - Jessica Rose Riggs (At BFPC)

November 23rd - Zak Edward Fonteneau (At LL)

