

# Parish Info + Diary



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



**NSM: Rev Rosy Coldwell**  
12 Stileham Bank  
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## 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  
**Receptionist:** Ellie Wilson  
ellie@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'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.**

Courts New Address:  
The Vicarage, 7 Chadwell Heath Lane  
Chadwell Heath  
Romford, Essex RM6 4LS



Sun 1st	<b>"Relying on God"</b> 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at LL
Wed 4th Fri 6th	Homegroup: <i>Life Builder 7</i> Women's World Day of Prayer
Sun 8th	<b>"Thanking God"</b> 9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Worship at BFPC 11.00am BCP Holy Communion at LL
Mon 9th	7.30pm Martin's Induction service at St Chad's, Chadwell Heath
Wed 11th	Homegroups: <i>Lifebuilder 9</i>
Sun 15th	<b>"Blessing Other People "</b> 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Holy Communion at LL Langton Long AGM
Wed 18th	Homegroups: <i>Lifebuilder 10</i>
Sun 22nd	<b>"Being Honest with God"</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL
Tues 24th Wed 25th	Prayer Day Homegroups: <i>Lifebuilder 8</i>
27th to 29th	March: Parish Weekend at The Blandford School
Sun 28th	9.00am CW Holy Communion (said) at BFPC

Renewal of Wedding Vows:  
February 14th: Mr & Mrs Parsons



Funerals:  
February 20th: Leslie Langdown

## Our usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

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



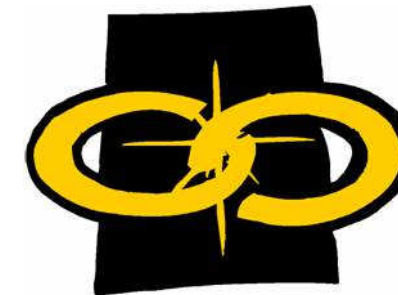
# Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - March 2009

## "This is love ..."

A couple of weeks ago, I did a service of rededication for a couple who have been married forty years and in a few weeks I hope to be doing another one for a couple who have been married for sixty years. It's a real privilege of my job to play a part in these occasions and to reflect back upon the decades they have spent together, working together and putting up with all of each other's little (and sometimes not-so-little) annoying habits! The confidence in their relationship, the comfortable way they communicate and are in each other's presence are all indicators of the journey they have shared as well as the maturing nature of their love. And that journey, for both couples, is far from finished!

March sees our long-awaited Parish Weekend with Martin Cavender, which is entitled "Going Deeper", and reflects the desire that we have that our relationship with God should grow deeper and more mature as time goes by. The aim is that we can celebrate a confidence in our relationship with Him and communicate (it's called "pray"! ) with Him with an ease that demonstrates a constantly- growing and maturing relationship. My guess is, though, that the couples I have mentioned cannot sit down and tell me how these things actually "happened", but that they just "did" - they are the products



of the relationship, rather than being the cause of the growth.

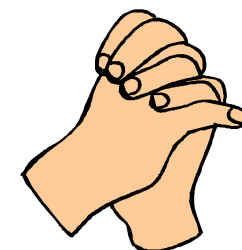
John wrote in 1 John 4:10 "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." These words invite us not to strive for that love, to keep working at it in the hope that we might be lovable in God's eyes - but to bathe in that love, to live in that love and to grow and mature in it. They invite us to wallow in it and to dive deeper and deeper into it so that we can experience more of it and be engulfed by it. That is what our Parish weekend is all about!

Some may respond to this and say that it is not as easy as it sounds: they struggle with prayer, they struggle with sin, they struggle with relationships. Me, too! The key word, though, in all those things is "struggle": we are like the child that has been engulfed in the arms of a loving parent, but still struggles and says "Let me go, I want to do it" instead of resting in the parent's arms and being willing to rest a while and then do whatever it is *together*.

Others respond to this by saying that it is all too *passive*, and that it reeks of laziness and self-absorption. I beg to differ! The more we are engulfed by God's love, the more we will be inspired to *do His will*.

It is not too late to sign up to the Weekend and to Go Deeper in our relationship with God - but we need to hear from you soon! Please join us that we may bathe, wallow and be engulfed by God's love ... Together.

Tim Storey



Tuesday 24th March

**Prayer Day at BFPC & LL**

9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC  
Prayer requests to 456260 or prayer@bfpc.org.uk  
by Sunday 22nd March, 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

## “Going Deeper”

BFPC & Langton Parish weekend  
27th to 29th March 2009  
Speaker: Martin Cavender  
At Blandford School

We are already planning an exciting weekend and we have over 130 people signed up for the Weekend from all ages groups and all quarters of the parish's life which means this is truly a weekend for the whole church family...

The draft Programme for the weekend is on a separate sheet, available from the office, the weekend will begin on Friday at 6pm and finish after lunch on Sunday.

See the office or go to [www.bfpc.org.uk](http://www.bfpc.org.uk) for more information

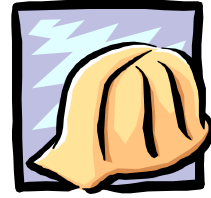
### When ‘Thank you’ can’t say it From Martin Court

What can we say when words will never convey the depth of our affection and gratitude to you all. We have enjoyed four years of love, support, encouragement and gracious patience from all the folks at Langton and Blandford and know that your prayers, wisdom and help have lifted and sustained us hugely as a family. Tim has worked hard to mould me into a church leader for which I am grateful, and though we go in answer to God's call on my life, we go with heavy hearts. We have been so welcomed and blessed by the church families and your generous gifts have far outweighed our worth. We had felt that we could not afford to update my computer during this move but due to your generosity we will now be able to that. And more, we will also buy a memento that will keep you close to our thoughts and in our prayers, a reminder of your warmth and friendship to us.

‘Thank you’ cannot get close to what we want to say. May God bless you all and all that you do in his name. From our hearts, thank you, and may God shine on you as you have shined on us. *“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matt.25.40*

## Parish Centre Update

The project is about to turn from planning into reality! We anticipate that the Contractors will take possession of the site in the first week of March and the demolition and building of the new Centre will begin shortly afterwards with completion expected by the end of the year. However ... We still have a shortfall in the project, estimated at £38,000 and whilst there are plans for further fundraising events and grant applications, we are still hoping that there will be many Parish events taking place in the coming months. Above all, please PRAY ... for the Hall Steering Group and for God's provision in addressing the issues which still need to be resolved. And watch out for the diggers .... !!



## Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

We are continuing to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2-45pm (please note new time) in church, as a Prayer & Fellowship Group. 13 of us want to remain M.U. members under Lower Stour Valley Mothers Union, both for administration purposes and for keeping in touch with Salisbury so that we can pray and support the Work of the Mothers Union. February was our first meeting with this new format. Sheila Wooldbridge, who has recently moved to Blandford from Exeter M.U. guided us through a lovely time of prayer and fellowship. All our meetings are open to all. So please join us at any of our meetings.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY : Tuesday 28th April 2-00pm at Blandford St. Mary church. Bridget Trump M.U. Diocesan President, is coming to give a talk, with slides, on her recent trip to the Sudan. Bridget had a most interesting and moving time there and would like to share it with as many people as possible. Everyone is invited.

## Reflections of a fair trade shopkeeper



“How was the trip?” enquires the interested customer, as their purchases are keyed through the till. This opening gambit was a feature of the first week of February in the shop, when David and I were back in circulation after our 2 week trip to Nepal and Bangladesh with a group of Tearfund fair trade supporters. “Where do you start?” I replied, trawling through my brain for an adequate list of adjectives that would do justice to such an experience as ours. “Amazing...challenging...inspiring...informative...exhausting...mind-blowing... and as for Dhaka... dusty, hot, noisy and all that crazy traffic!”

The customer looks puzzled - maybe one of the people who thought we'd had some sort of off-beat holiday? Trying to sum up the experience was difficult, especially when feeling the effects of a chesty cold caught on the very last day. We'd had a completely clean bill of health all through the trip and then ironically, at the end as tray luggage came in my direction and on the journey home a few more nasty bugs floated around and felled five of the group, David included.

The customer shuffles their feet while packing the purchases into their bag. “Oh, but did you enjoy it?” “Yes, we did,” I reply, “but what is more important was the confirmation that fair trade really does make a difference to people's lives.”

I think back to one of the long journeys we took to the village of Kalibari near Mymensingh, about 3 - 4 hours north of Dhaka and remember seeing Shahanaz. At the age of 22, but looking more like 15 because of malnutrition, her only child had died while still a baby. We couldn't find out much more about her, whether or not she was married, but we learned that she'd never been to school. She heard about the workshops and came looking for employment. In the tranquil, leafy setting she was sitting on the ground with two other women splitting lengths of bamboo. She used a sharp blade kept in place by resting her foot on the wooden handle. The bamboo had been soaked for 2 days to soften it and separate the fibres. Other women nearby were using the lengths split by

Shahanaz and her companions and were wrapping around them strips of paper cut from cement sacks and crisp packets. The covered lengths would then be coiled or woven into bags, dishes, placemats or covers for journals.

I describe to my customer briefly how women like Shahanaz can now have a healthier life because of the regular wages they receive. In many workshops we visited the workforce was made up of women like Shahanaz. Many were single parents, either as unmarried mothers or widows although some in a nearby workshop were in the fortunate position of providing a second income.

“But they have huge extended families don't they?” the customer asks. “They all help each other.” The comment paints a rosy picture if you've never actually been there. Widows, in reality, have no means of support and unmarried mothers are often disowned by their families, so projects like the one we saw at Kalibari are vital in the lives of many disadvantaged and marginalized women.

“Ah well, let me know when you're going to do a talk - I'll look forward to hearing more,” says the customer gathering up the shopping and setting off to trudge home in the snow. “Weather's a bit different from what you had!” they remark as they leave the shop.

I reach under the counter and pull out the Tearcraft catalogue, leafing through the pages until I find the wastepaper basket and box file made of recycled sweet wrappers. Page 32, item no.5 Wrapper waste bin. “The ultimate in waste recycling - using foil food-wrappers to create a functional waste bin.” Created in Bangladesh for Heed- £12.

I study the picture and think back to the Kalibari workshops and Shahanaz. So much of what we throw away with hardly a thought is transforming the lives of women like her, giving dignity through work and self-esteem through her ability to earn a decent wage. Insights like this are priceless and given the time and opportunity they are the key to giving my customers and audiences the assurance that when crafts and food are fairly traded they really do make a difference to the lives of the producers.

Jennie Rake: Tearfund speaker and manager of Set Fair 4 Trade, 22 Salisbury Street, Blandford Forum. 01258 45355 or email [jennierake@aol.com](mailto:jennierake@aol.com) For more information about Tearfund's fairly traded range of crafts visit [www.tearcraft.org](http://www.tearcraft.org)