

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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Osbert Tun Pe (450891)
Wardens: Sara Loch (450278)
Pat Ellen (451023)
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'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.**

Funerals:
April 14th: Michael John Parker at BFPC
April 22nd: Sue Hyde at BFPC
April 23rd: Susan Brooks at Poole crem
Memorial service:
March 30th: Jean Reynolds



Sun 3rd	"Gifts 'r' Us" 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at LL Homegroups meet: Social
Wed 6th	Homegroups meet: Social
Sun 10th	"What's Yours?" Discovering our Gift 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am All Age Worship at BFPC 11.00am Holy Communion at LL Homegroups meet: "Gifts 'r' Us"
Wed 13th	Homegroups meet: "Gifts 'r' Us"
Thurs 14th	2.45pm MU in church
Sun 17th	"Gifts to Encourage" 9.00am CW Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Holy Communion at LL
Tues 19th	Prayer day 9am Prayer at BFPC 12 noon Prayer at LL 8pm Prayer at BFPC Homegroups meet: "Gifts To Encourage"
Wed 20th	Homegroups meet: "Gifts To Encourage"
Thurs 21st	Ascension Day 7.00pm Holy Communion at BFPC
Sun 24th	"Gifts for Speech" 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL
Wed 27th	Homegroups: "Gifts for Speech"
Sun 31st	"Gifts for Everyone" 10.30am United Pentecost Praise at BFPC Bishops David's concert for Sudan Medical Link

Our usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

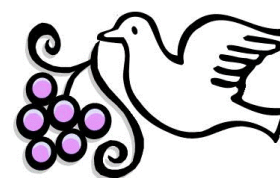
Thursdays at 9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Fridays at 10.00am Rainbow Toddlers@Church
Fridays at 10.30am Prayers at Langton Long
Saturday Morning Coffee House



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - May 2009

"Gifts 'r' Us"



Matt 7:8

*"For everyone who asks
receives; he who seeks
finds; and to him who
knocks, the door will be
opened."*

"So what did you expect?" So often this phrase is the response to someone who has been disappointed - in a relationship, in a job application or in life in general. Expanded, it goes like this: "So what did you expect? You expected too much of others and yourself and maybe next time you'll learn." It is a common enough expression of the negativity that so often invades life - and suggests that the only way to live is not to expect too much so that you will not be disappointed. And it is a way of thinking that has taken root in many aspects of Church life, where the thinking is "Don't expect too much of God, then you can be surprised when he does something for you." And the net result is a Church which expects little and, as a result, receives little, except for the occasional surprise. This, to me anyway, sounds a pretty unexciting Church.

Jesus says in Matthew 7 that everyone who ask, receives ... it may not be what they expected, but God answers in His way and in His time. Equally, those who seek, find ... but maybe not what they were looking for, and those who knock may be surprised as to what is behind the door. The key aspect of this verse is that there is an

expectation that people will actively engage: they will ask, they will seek or they will knock. When we had a cat, it used to make me laugh at the way she sat there, staring at the door, in the hope that it would open for her. It took us a long time to persuade her of the benefits of the "self-help" cat flap. There is an old adage that "God helps those who help themselves" and there is an element of truth about it: those who help their own cause by living in expectation are more likely to be open to see or hear God's answers to their prayers.

We are beginning a series on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit but we shall be approaching them in a slightly different way which, I hope and believe, may help those for whom there is certain nervousness attached. My prayer is that we will approach this with an expectation that God is going to surprise us in the coming weeks: that he will surprise us with the answers to what we ask for, with what we find when we seek Him and what will be behind the knock that we knock on. And that, above all, the Gifts are perhaps not what we anticipated they would be. But - and it is a big BUT - discovering what God has for us relies on us asking, seeking and knocking in the first place. And doing so with expectation!

Tim Storey



The New Bishop of Sherborne has been announced and will be Dr Graham Kings from St. Mary's Islington



Tuesday 19th May

Prayer Day at BFPC & LL

9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC
Prayer requests to 456260 or prayer@bfpc.org.uk
by Sunday 17th May, 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

Parish Centre Fundraising

Saturday May 16th from 2pm-5pm, there will be a plant swap and sale at 8, Park Road (Nick and Norah Saynor 453809) Entrance in Fairfield Road. There will be cream teas. Donations of "swappable" and saleable plants will be gratefully received.



A "New" Nightstop Dorset goes live – with your help!



You may remember some months ago we had an article about proposals to set up a nightstop for young people in Dorset. Progress has been made and this is the update sent out this week:

The thought of anyone having nowhere to sleep at night is awful - how much worse if you are young and frightened, vulnerable to an apparently kind stranger. In Dorset there is no emergency accommodation for young people. Nightstop Dorset will work to try and remove fear, to find a suitable safe bed with a properly trained and supported host family. In the morning, the agency which referred the young person will meet up with them and work to find a satisfactory solution to the problem which caused the 'nowhere to sleep' difficulty.

Sometimes it is a question of time while tempers calm and normal relations are resumed.

Sometimes it is a more serious scenario which takes complex arrangements to ensure safety and as happy an outcome as possible. For many young people the kindness of strangers is overwhelming: Depaul Nightstop UK has been working for many years with young people and knows that often strong links are made which endure.

After some two years of planning and preparing with much support in many ways from the churches in Dorset, the Nightstop Steering Group working with a panel of young people has appointed Action for Children to set up and run Nightstop Dorset. Action for Children was NCH. A co-ordinator is now in post and is running a course for potential hosts and drivers. Cazz Marshall has experience of finding volunteers to spend time with looked after children so knows something of the difficulties which such volunteers face - as well as the problems the young people bring with them.

Nightstop Dorset is unique in the country in being the only County wide service and it seems, the only one planned with a Steering Group drawn from both voluntary and statutory bodies. The support of Churches Together in Dorset has been great and invaluable.

We are more than happy to tell you more about Nightstop. Please be in contact or try googling www.depaultrust.org where there is a direct link to their Nightstop page.

Girls@bfpc "Swish Evening"
Fund raising for the Parish centre
Friday 12th June at Rake's House.
From 7.30pm.
Come along and swop clothes,
accessories & light reading books



£10 entrance to include wine and nibbles



News From Langton Long



Since the last issue of Outlook much has happened. The long awaited Weekend Away proved to fulfill all expectations. Martin Cavendar was the great inspiration and there was something for everyone. The children were cared for and the kitchen staff were magnificent in coping with so great a crowd. The atmosphere was spirit filled and for many it was a life-changing experience. During Holy Week there were special prayer sessions and on Good Friday several of us joined the service outside BFPC before following the cross and praying for our town at appropriate stations. On Easter Sunday our beautifully decorated little church was filled and Rosy celebrated the great news of Christ's resurrection with almost everyone on the electoral roll - a joyful service.

On Easter Monday a few of our congregation shared the fun and fellowship of the walk with magnificent views planned by Jacky and Graham Poynter. It was a fitting conclusion to the beginning of a new season in the church's calendar.

Enid Kretchmer



The Soul who saved my sole.

Jesus loved parables - ways to teach through everyday life stories. I hope this true story will entertain, teach or warn you also. It has been a fine lesson for me.

This morning the air and temperature was frosty. Rather a surprise for late April. It was still, windless and the sun was trying to carve through the light fog. It was a beautiful day in prospect, although the forecast prepared for rain later. I decided that this was an opportunity to go to Sandbanks, launch the canoe and paddle across the water to view Brownsea Island from the waters of the lovely Poole Harbour. I prepared all the necessary clothes and wet proof gear, placing the emergency articles in the waterproof stuff bag. I then loaded the van. Now, when your arms are full and you cannot open the doors you do silly things to make this possible. I planted my spare shoes on top of the van (this about 1.85m high) and, yes you guessed correctly, then drove away after completing the loading, shoes still on the roof of the van.

In my eagerness to be away, I shunned the thought of calling in to Langton for a quick prayer and read - something I enjoy on my days off. I also resorted to persuading myself that I would attend the prayer day at 8.00pm in BFPC as I was unlikely to be back in time for Langton's offering.

The journey was wonderful. I glanced at the tide height in Holes Bay, confirming my reading of the Tide Chart for today. This was going to be good. I planned to stop in Lilliput for some cash to pay for the parking (only £1, for all day, in off season). When I had stopped I looked for my shoes as this is where I had placed my wallet before I left the house.

The next minutes of frantic reasoning made my body cold. I had a lot of ground to cover for my impending search, also I had to think about when to call the bank to cancel the cards - one of which I had only received and signed this very morning. Don't misunderstand me, my bank balance would not entice any misguided villain. The thought of many phone calls, to many different societies, made me shudder.



So home I travelled (or "raced" if I'm honest). It is surprising how many items look like shoes when you are searching the roadside!! Once home, having not seen anything recognisable, I put the keys in the lock of the

front door, I then noticed a note in my letter box. It read:
"Gerry, I have your wallet plus one shoe - found them in the road this morning.... I will be in Dorchester until one-ish. Regards, Colin" (Colin is my esteemed Church Warden)" So what have I learned? Well, it could be that God has a keen sense of humour because when I checked my email to see if the office had tried to contact me (Colin had phoned the Church Office too, trying to ring my mobile phone) I had only one item of mail - a spam email entitled: "Shoes Under. organiser@smartselect.source.info".

Forgive me Lord and THANK YOU Lord, for everything you have taught me today, especially that prayer always needs to precede action and that proper, careful preparation usually leads to happier outcomes!! Thank you for forgiving my carelessness. Thank you for true neighbours too.

Gerry Hird.

Messiah from Scratch!

Sat 6th June in Blandford Parish Church.
Rehearsals will be from 2pm – 5.30pm, with the performance at 7.30pm-9.30pm
Cost: £10 per performer (including copy) with proceeds in aid of the new Blandford Parish Centre!

Pick up a flyer from the porch