

Parish Info + News



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Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Blandford Forum

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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.**

Our usual Weekly Events @ BFPC ...

Thursdays at 9.30am BCP Holy Communion
Fridays at 10.00am Rainbow Toddlers@Church
Saturday Morning Coffee House
Saturday at 10.30am Langton Prayer at BFPC during
building works

SEPTEMBER

Sun 6th **"What is Fruit"**
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC
11.00am Morning Prayer at LL

Wed 9th Homegroups meet: Social Evening
Sat 12th DHCT Cycle ride

Sun 13th **"Love"**
9.00am CW Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am All Age Worship at BFPC
11.00am Holy Communion BCP at LL

Tues 15th Confirmation course begins
Wed 16th Schools start of year service
Homegroups meet: "Love"

Fri 18th Girls@bfpc Chinese meal
Sat 19th Tile painting in church
2.30pm wedding
Thai evening at Methodist Church

Sun 19th **"Joy"**
9.00am Morning Prayer CW at BFPC
10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC
11.00am Holy Communion CW at LL

Wed 23rd Homegroups meet : "Joy"
Sat 26th Social Action day

Sun 26th **"Back to Church Sunday"**
9.00am Holy Communion BCP at BFPC
10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC
11.00am Harvest All Age Worship at LL

Wed 30th Homegroups meet: Nooma Evening

Baptisms:
Aug 2nd at LL: Frederick & Isobel Clark
At BFPC: Winston Nicholson & William Harding

Wedding:
August 14th: Ian Sherwood &
Jane Caswell



Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - September 2009

**"By their fruit you will recognize them.
Do people pick grapes from
thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"
Matthew 7:16**

This verse from Matthew's Gospel was actually the motto at my school - founded by two brothers who bore the surname "Thorne". I recently visited someone who had the most amazing cultivated blackberries growing along the wall of their garden. Lush, juicy and tasty, they almost fell into my hands as I picked them. But over many years, they had been planted in the right spot, tended lovingly by the gardener and pruned and shaped, so that they would achieve maximum results. As Jesus suggests, it would be more than a surprise if one year, the gardener walked out of their back door and found bananas growing!

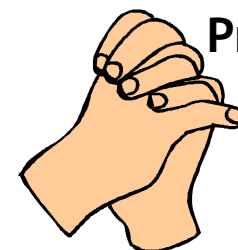
There is a simple but very profound message here that echoes Jesus' image of the Vine in John 15: if we want to produce fruit, as individuals or a Church, then allowing ourselves to be planted and tended by the Gardener, ensuring we receive the sustenance that deeply embedded roots can bring us and then being picked at the right time will result in a crop that the Gardener desires and longs for.



As individuals, this is seen in the crop of Fruit that Paul describes in Galatians 5:22-23. As a Church, this is seen in mature Christians producing these Fruit on a bigger scale - that of a loving, joyful and peaceful community. But it is clear that the images that the Bible presents us with are not the result of a dose of MiracleGro but the product of time and care. The crop is passive, being placed where the Gardener deems best, receiving the goodness of light, water and nutrients over a period of time, to maximum effect. The job of the crop is to receive what it is given and to grow to maturity by feeding from of it. We feed through many different ways - our worship, our teaching and, I believe, above all, working through it with others in Home Groups. The nutrition that is brought up through the roots must reach the extremities of the plant in order for full growth to take place - and, as in John 15, there are certain aspects of growth which involve pruning and shaping. And the challenge of this verse in Matthew 7, which echoes the Parable of the Sower, is that the seed in our lives is nurtured in a place where it will not be strangled by weeds or lack roots.

In the coming weeks, we shall be looking at these things in greater detail, but the final question is that of the purpose of fruit itself. Psalm 34:8 says "Taste and see that the LORD is good". Just as we are attracted to the delights of fruit for the goodness they bring to our lives, so our fruit is there to attract people to what God has grown in us and can offer them in their lives. That is our prayer for ourselves, through this coming series and every day of our lives.

Tim Storey



Prayer days are now the first Tuesday in the month

6th Oct, 3rd Nov & 1st Dec

9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC

Prayer requests to 456260 or prayer@bfpc.org.uk

"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

Update from the parish centre

- We have a floor, roof and walls!! The internal rooms of the Centre are now laid out. Some of the windows have been fitted so the building is nearly waterproof. The brick plinth around the walls is complete.

-Details are confirmed for the electrics, kitchen fittings, colours, toilet details and floorings (Carpet, bamboo and linoleum); and tenders are being sought.

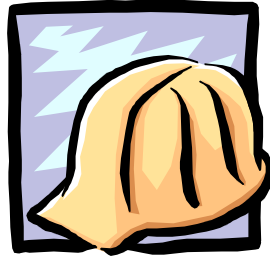
- The next phases of construction include the roof coverings, all windows and doors, electrical first fix including the underfloor heating, plumbing and external cladding. Then internal walls - first fix, insulation, plastering.

A total of nearly £7000 has been raised through local fund-raising events. The big event through July to October is 'Ten Pound Talents'- see the Talent Times for details of a varied programme from jam making to wine tasting and car washing.

- We still have a shortfall in funding. Further sources of grant aid are being sought and a 'Sponsor a Plank' appeal is planned for September.

- We need a Management Group to draw up and oversee upkeep and bookings of the Centre. See any of the HSG if this interests you. Job description available.

-Saturday 19th September: morning Tile-painting workshop, any age, any talent- book your place. Tiles are going in kitchen as a feature



News from Langton Long

An eventful summer is coming to a close and we are moving into the autumn months. Since Wednesday, 12 August building work is finally underway at All Saints church. The builders have been extremely cooperative and have cleared up each Friday to such an extent that we have been able to continue with our services so far.

On August 2nd the service was taken by Jimmy Hamilton Brown, who brought a whole congregation for the baptism of twins from his own church and they filled the nave! It was a joyful service with lots of children.

The summer luncheon was also a wonderful occasion. The weather was warm and sunny and the food, as always, delicious as 27 people gathered in Fiona and John Rowland's garden. John and Fiona's hard work and generosity were very much appreciated by all.

On a more personal note I would like to thank all of you who prayed for the BFPC/LL contingent that traveled to Thailand. We had a wonderful time with safe travels, and we all stayed strong and healthy. We enjoyed a wide range of memorable experiences of which I will give a short summary in the next Outlook.

Annette Orton



Dorset Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride
Saturday 12th September
To collect a sponsor form or if you could help to man the church for an hour during the day, please contact the office



Thai Evening
19th September
6.30pm onwards
at the Methodist Church.



£12 for Meal, Coffee & Talk
£ 4 for Coffee & Talk only



Alpha Coming in January

We have changed our plans for Alpha and the course beginning in September is not now going to happen. But we are going to celebrate the opening of the new Parish Centre in the New Year with an Alpha Course! Look out for more details in the autumn!

Taking Communion at BFPC



BFPC has a reputation for doing some things differently and one of them has been the way that we invite people to come up for Holy Communion! Our practice has been for the Sidesmen/Welcomers to invite people to come up for Communion beginning at the *back* of the Church first and, as a result, over the years, there have been a few instances where visitors to the Church have been confused by this, particularly at the 1030am service. The sight of the Communion Assistants, the Extended Communion Teams and the Prayer Ministry Team going forward and lining up *inside* the Communion rail has, on more than one occasion, caused a visitor who has been seated at the front to join them. The subsequent embarrassment is something which we would want to avoid. The advantage of the current method has been that the Congregation are able to return to their seats without having to cross the line of people preparing to receive - but the PCC has decided that, as from the beginning of September, we will ask the Sidesmen/Welcomers to invite people to come up to Communion beginning with those at the *front* of Church as it is a far more welcoming procedure for visitors and would enable them to participate with confidence. In order to provide consistency, this change in procedure would need to be applied to all services although the problem is one that seems to apply mainly to the 10.30am at present. Please bear with us as we try to get this right!

Please pray for the Wooding family as they settle into Ugandan life. Pray for the children as they start their new term, and Nick and Kate as they begin their new jobs.



Interested in Baptism or Confirmation?

"Growing In Faith"

A five part course in exploring our faith, which leads to Baptism and Confirmation begins at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15th September at Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion, with a service in BFPC with Bishop Graham on Wednesday 21st October. See the website or phone 480092 for more details.

Who Pays for It All?

Running BFPC and Langton Churches is an expensive business! It costs over £100,000 a year to run them and that money is spent on a variety of items including paying for the Rector's stipend (his salary), housing and pension, paying for 3 part time Office Staff, paying for the upkeep and the enormous fuel bills in the Church buildings - and numerous other things that go to make up the life and ministry of these Churches. And this is quite apart from the cost of the Parish Centre! It is surprising, though, as so how many people have little idea of where all this money comes from - some think that the Church has millions stashed away and that we live on the interest and others think that the Government pays for it all. Both are completely incorrect - the Churches in Blandford and Langton are supported solely by your good selves! The Rector's stipend is paid by the Church Commissioners in London but the Parish pays a "Share" of over £40,000 a year (and nearly £10,000 at Langton) towards this. And, by the way, I don't get paid that amount! So the fact is that we, as two Churches, have to find around £2,000 every week in order to keep the Churches running. As you can imagine, this requires careful management and planning and we are grateful to the careful work of our Treasurers and office staff to ensure that we work to budgets. But this means we have to ask *you*, the people we rely on week by week, month by month, to keep us going - because if we cannot meet our costs, the ministry of the church will inevitably suffer. At a time of recession, when incomes are often reduced because of lower interest rates, we all have to cut our cloth accordingly - but the PCC is asking that you please be aware of the need to be faithful in giving to the work of God's Church here in Blandford and Langton. If you already give to the work, then we say a massive "Thank You" and ask that you continue to support and pray for the work here. But if you are aware that God is calling you to support the work here financially in a deeper way, then please have a word with the Treasurer (Heather Stringer in BFPC and Charlie Culshaw at Langton) and they will be pleased to talk to you about planned giving that can be done through an envelope scheme or via your Bank, which can enable us to make use of the Gift Aid scheme that reclaims the tax on your Gift. It may be that you were not aware how much it costs or how the Church is funded - but please will you consider prayerfully the responsibility we all have to ensure that what God does here is able to grow because it has financial resources to make it happen.

Rev Tim Storey