

# Parish Info + News



**Rector: Rev Tim Storey**  
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Blandford Forum DT11 7DG  
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**NSM: Rev Rosy Coldwell**  
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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:** Louise Moogan  
Louise@bfpc.org.uk  
**Lay Ministers:** Jennie Rake (451186)  
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  
Fridays at 10.30am Prayers at Langton Long  
Saturday Morning Coffee House



**Sun 6th** *"Seeing the Fruit in Ourselves"*  
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC  
10.30am Morning Worship and  
Baptisms at BFPC  
11.00am Morning Prayer at LL  
Homegroup Socials  
**Wed 9th** Girls@bfpc Christmas dinner  
**Thurs 10th** Late night shopping  
**Fri 11th**

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**Sun 13th** *"Nativity & Advent"*  
9.00am CW Holy Communion at BFPC  
10.30am All Age Worship at BFPC  
3.00pm Carol Service at Langton Long  
**Wed 16th** Archbishop Wake Christmas service  
**Thurs 17th** Milldown Carol concert  
**Fri 18th** Milldown Carol service

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**Sun 20th** *"The Fruit in Mary and Joseph"*  
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC  
10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC  
11.00am Holy Communion at LL  
6.30pm BFPC Carol Service  
**Thurs 24th** 5pm Crib service at BFPC  
11pm Midnight Communion at BFPC  
**Fri 25th** 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC  
10.30am AA Holy Communion at BFPC  
10.30am AA Holy Communion at LL

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**Sun 27th** *"The Wise Men"*  
9.00am United Morning Prayer  
at BFPC

**Baptisms:**  
November 8th: Ryan House &  
Joshua Tanner at BFPC



**Funerals:**  
November 2nd: Thomas Butler at BFPC  
November 13th: Rodger Ford at BFPC  
November 23rd Dennis Barr at BFPC

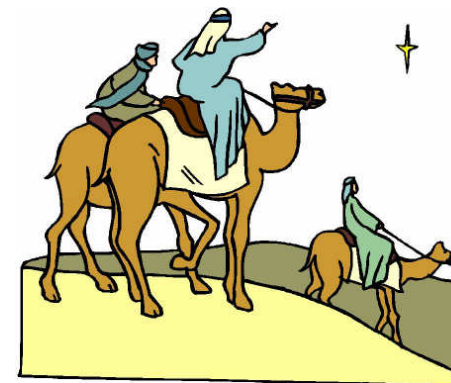


# Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - December 2009

## A New Hope

*"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Matthew 2:2*



It is over 30 years since a film came out which changed cinema for ever: "Star Wars". The epic tale of Luke Skywalker and his call to stand up to evil is one that has inspired many and has inevitably drawn comparisons with the Gospel down the years. I have no idea whether George Lucas intended there to be parallels, but there is no doubt that they are there - even in the full title of the film "Star Wars: A New Hope". The Christmas story, which we shall hear afresh in the coming weeks could easily be entitled "Christmas: A new Hope". It is what the prophet Isaiah foresaw when he wrote "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2) and it is what the Wise Men were looking for when they asked the question of Herod. Hope is a precious commodity - it is the belief in us that God has a future for us that is going to be positive and exciting, a trust that we can move forward with the knowledge that he has prepared the way for us, as we move towards His light. Isaiah was aware of the creeping darkness which the world so often brings - and that God would provide a light, a hope, amidst that darkness for the future. Whilst Israel would wait another 500 years for it to be a reality, the Wise Men realised it had already happened.

2009 has been a hard year, by any measure we chose to use. In the world, it has been a year of recession, a year when we have questioned the integrity of our MPs and a year when we have asked questions about a distant war as we have watched the bodies of soldiers repatriated. As a parish, we have worked hard to see a Centre rise from the ruins of the old Parish Rooms and God has done amazing things with the Talents and Money we have given. The questions we are now asking about how we use this new opportunity are very much in the sense of seeking God's plans, rather than ours, as to how this Centre can be used to see the fulfilling of our Vision to see "Every road Baptised in the Love of God"

The Christmas Story is about hope - but it is about seeing that hope come to reality. In Jesus, the world has Hope and it has Light in a way which nothing else on earth has ever known. However, the fulfilling of this Hope came at great cost and we should not underestimate what the future holds for us. The idea that a new building will answer all our questions and provide all we need for the building of the Kingdom is a false understanding of the reality that faces us - the hard work we have put into making the Centre a reality is a foretaste of the work that lies ahead in building the Kingdom!

As we retell the story of hope that is at the heart of Christmas, may we recognise this Hope within us. Just as Christmas is not the end of the story but only the beginning, seeing the Centre finished is not the end of the story but the end of the Preface: now we move onto Chapter 1! May the message of hope fill this Christmas and may God Bless us as we live in it, now and in the days, months and year to come.

Tim Storey



Tuesday 5th January

**Prayer Day at BFPC & LL**

9am @ BFPC - 12noon @ Langton - 8pm @ BFPC  
Prayer requests to 456260 or prayer@bfpc.org.uk  
by Sunday 3rd January, 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

*So Which is the Best Service to come to .... ?*

Each year, the refrain comes "Why do we do this?!" and it is a good question! One answer is that "we always do it" but maybe that is not enough. Equally "it keeps the children happy" is good until boredom sets in once New Year comes. Trying to get away from the bad news in the media only helps for a while, too. So why do we do it? We think it is good to take an hour or so out to find out what Christmas is really all about and why we celebrate it... so please come and join us at one of the Christmas Services. One problem is that of working out which is the best service at church to come to for you or for your family. As usual, there are a variety of services happening at BFPC and here is a quick guide to the various things available ....



**Sunday 29th November**

4.00am @ BFPC - The Christingle Service -Joining with the local support group for the Children's Society, we shall be looking at the symbols of Christmas and what they can tell us about the weeks ahead.

**Friday 4th December**

7.00pm @ BFPC - The Civic Carol Service -Join with the Mayor, the Town Council and other civic leaders, as we launch the official Town Celebrations for 2009.

**Sunday 13th December**

10.30am @ BFPC - The Nativity Service -Our J Team and friends will be reminding us of the story behind Christmas, as we begin to prepare for the Big Day. A good reminder that the best Gift of All was God's!

3.00pm @ Langton - A Traditional Carol Service-The Langton Long Carol service is a traditional service of readings and carols and is being led again this year by a choir from the two churches in the Benefice - Blandford and Langton.

**Sunday 20th December**

6.30pm @ BFPC - A Contemporary Carol Service -"Christmas ... Why?" As Christmas Day approaches, the pressure is on and the question of why we are doing all this gets bigger! The Carol Service asks the questions and tries to answer the reason for all of this: the gift of God's love and the promise of forgiveness, the hope of eternal life and the chance to know God personally ... all wrapped up in a small child in a manger. Why? Come and find out!

**Thursday 24th December**

5.00pm @ BFPC - The Crib Service. 5.00pm on Christmas eve is a wonderful time to take a break from all the preparations and remember what the real meaning of Christmas is. This service is for all ages, but especially the youngest, and is a joyful opportunity for them to hear the story and help to put all the figures in the crib.

11.00pm @ BFPC - Midnight Holy Communion This is a formal service of Holy Communion to prepare for the start of Christmas Day

**Friday 25th December**

9.00am @ BFPC - Holy Communion -A quiet service to start Christmas Day with a Holy Communion Service from the Book of Common Prayer.

10.30am @ BFPC - All Age Communion ) Joyful celebration services with Holy Communion for  
10.30am @ Langton Long - All Age Communion ) all ages to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

**Blandford Church PCC** .....met on Saturday 29th January to discuss the review. It was agreed that the areas we need to be focussing on are:



- Developing our prayer life.
- Ensuring we are staffed appropriately.
- Working out how to develop our worship.
- Seeing how we can reach out using the Centre.

The PCC are planning to meet again in the New Year to take the discussions on further. Please pray that:

- Tim will know God's leading in this process.
- We would be committed to what God is wanting to do.
- We will seek His Kingdom first.



**Christmas meal and Hampers**

We are having a Christmas meal at Woodhouse Gardens on Saturday 19th December. If you would like to be involved in anyway, eg setting up, cooking, washing up etc., please speak to Louise.

In addition we are also hoping to provide some hampers this year. There is a list on the kitchen door of food items that are suitable to go into the hampers, please sign by anything you can offer and bring any goods to the office.



**News from Langton Long**



The building work is almost complete and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible at our Christmas Carol Service at 3pm on Sunday 13th December.

Annette Orton

**Parish Centre Update**

What's been happening?



- Externally the building is nearly complete, and the access ramp will be built last.
- Internally all doors and windows are fitted and the under floor heating is being installed. The walls are being painted and most of the kitchen is fitted.
- We have received £500 from the Lions for kitchenware and £5000 from Williams Williams.
- Over £13,000 has been raised through local fund raising including a bridge drive (£181), talents (£5748) and soup lunches (£165).
- "Sponsor a Plank" was launched in October and initial sounds look promising, do pick up a pack from the back of church if you would like to contribute in this way.
- 53 painted tiles will be placed along the walls on the way to the toilets.

What's coming next?

- The opening has been delayed and re-scheduled for 27th February.
- The final phases of construction involve laying the floor and skirting boards and building the ramp. Furnishings, crockery and kitchenware contracts to be finalised. Phone line to be installed. Fire checks, insurance and licensing issues progressing.
- We hope to run a "last choir standing" event in the New Year, and need a couple more organisers.
- We need a Management group to draw up and over see upkeep and bookings for the centre. Please speak to Bob Henley for more information on what is involved.