

# Parish Info + News



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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  
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Di@bfpc.org.uk  
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**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 3rd	<b>"New Year"</b> 9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at LL
Tues 5th	Prayer Day 9am at BFPC 12 noon at LL 8pm at BFPC
Wed 6th	Homegroups meet: "Social Evening"
Sun 10th	<b>"Baptism of Jesus"</b> 9.00am CW Holy Communion at BFPC No service at BFPC at 10.30am Dedication of All Saints after Reordering work 11.00am United Holy Communion CW at Langton Long
Wed 13th	Homegroups meet: "Jesus' Baptism and Ours"
Sun 17th	<b>"Week of Prayer for Christian Unity"</b> 10.30am All Age United Service at BFPC
Mon 18th	United Prayer meeting
Wed 21st	Homegroups Meet: "Vision Evening"
Sun 24th	<b>"Joshua: Be Strong &amp; Courageous"</b> 9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC 10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC 11.00am All Age Worship at LL
Wed 28th	Homegroups meet: "Joshua Be Strong & Courageous"
Sun 31st	<b>"Joshua: Rahab hides the Spies"</b> 9.00am Holy Communion (Said) at BFPC 10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC 11.00am Morning Prayer at LL



# Outlook

News from Blandford Forum and Langton Long - January 2010

*"Be strong and  
courageous. Do not be  
terrified; do not be  
discouraged, for the  
LORD your God will be  
with you wherever you  
go."*  
**Joshua 1:9**



Each year, we have a Bible verse which is aimed at helping to focus our hearts and minds on what we believe God is wanting to do in our churches in the year ahead. So what do we think God is saying this year?

2009 was a year of building projects in both our churches and we start 2010 with the excitement of being able to use them in the ways which God wants us to, in order to build his Kingdom in this place. Like a skilled workman who opens his packages on Christmas morning to find exactly the present that he needed for the work he has to do, God has given us tools for the task ahead - exactly the ones we need to do his work. A shiny new Parish Centre with all the facilities and resources we could need, Langton Church, reordered and redecorated - we start 2010 with the work of building these almost complete ... so what now?

One thing we could do is to keep them nice and shiny and not use them, for fear of spoiling them. But like the workman's tools, that is not what we have been given them for. The only other alternative is to use them for the purposes for which they have been given to us - to be tools that we use to build God's Kingdom. If that is the case (and it is!), then we have to roll up our sleeves and get on with the real job of using them as places where we can invite people to hear about the Good News of the Kingdom. Alpha

Courses, social events, quiz nights, World Cup Football ... 2010 is full of opportunity. The problem is that we get worried that maybe we are not doing the right thing. In fact we get so worried that we will get it wrong or that someone will not approve, that we don't do anything at all. Our verse for 2010 is about the moment when Joshua stood looking across at the city of Jericho, with the thought that his motley band of people were going to have to conquer the land that God had promised them. As he walked around the city a few months later, for the seventh time, with the band playing and the people wondering how this was going to help Joshua must have had a pang of fear and the temptation to say, "OK, let's leave it for another day". But maybe he had the words God had spoken to him ringing in his heart: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." - words that say "you can do it!".

Joshua was not the one who had planned all of this - God was. We are not the ones who have planned the uses of the Centre according to our agenda and our plans and our desires - God has given us this, and I firmly believe that we can go about using it and building His Kingdom, using His Tools, with the same confidence that Joshua faced the battles ahead. Mountains look big from the bottom, but however high they may be, the climber with the right equipment, the confidence and belief in his heart - and the determination to do it, will reach the summit. That is my hope and my prayer for us in 2010 - to know that we now possess the equipment and we should have the belief that God will give us the determination to succeed in fulfilling his plans for us in the year to come.

Tim Storey

"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



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!



## PCC Discussions about the Parish Centre

The PCC spent Saturday 28th November discussing the ways in which we can use the Parish Centre when it opens in February. But when we come to look at questions like this, it often opens up our minds to ask wider questions about the issues that face us as a parish as a whole. There were precious few conclusions that the PCC reached on this day, but a lot more questions resulted!

**Broadly speaking, some are questions which the PCC need to address over the coming months, such as the Staffing needs of the parish and how we can best ensure that the diverse and deep ministry of the Parish can enable us to fulfil our Parish Vision to see every road in Blandford baptised in God's love. These involve ...**

Prayer

Staffing

Resourcing children, Youth work and young families

Worship coordinator

Mission giving

**Questions which were raised are more immediate and relate directly as to how we use the Centre when it is opened particularly concerning Worship - and the PCC have decide to meet up again on Saturday 16th January in order to address them.**

- What does the Vision Statement of the Centre mean in reality?
- Is the Centre separate from the Church, or part of it?
- Should the Centre be used for Sunday Worship - and how often?
- Should we see the Centre as a Church plant or to host Café Church at times other than Sundays?
- What creative ideas can we engage with and go for? And what resources can we draw on?

In order to address this, the PCC is meeting together on Saturday 16th January to look at these questions. They are only the tip of an iceberg - there are many practical issues that will result from any decisions that the PCC take and the discussions are only just beginning! ***Please pray for the PCC, that they will know God's guidance with each step they take, that they will sense God's guidance towards the resources they need to draw on and that they will know God's wisdom and sensitivity in the way change is implemented.***

## Rededication of All Saints, Langton Long

The past few months have seen a £100,000 project to reorder All Saints, including:

- The Moving of the Font
- The Introduction of a toilet + utility room
- A new Kitchen
- Clearing pews from South transept and north aisle
- Relighting and Redecorating the Church and Vestry
- A Ramp for easy access and Outside lighting

The Bishop of Sherborne, Graham Kings, is coming to rededicate the building, as well as to preach and celebrate Holy Communion with us at the 11.00am Service at Langton on Sunday 10th January. This will be a united service (with no 10.30am service at BFPC) and all area welcome. The practical arrangements will be that JTeam and our Young People's work will place in BFPC and parents are invited to drop off their children at BFPC before coming to the service in Langton. There will be also be a 9am CW Holy Communion service that morning at BFPC.



**Baptisms:**  
Dec 6th at BFPC: Lewis & Theo White

**Wedding:**  
Dec 5th at Langton: Gareth Fonteneau & Hannah Bradbury  
Dec 12th at BFPC: Philip Sweetland & Laura Woodland



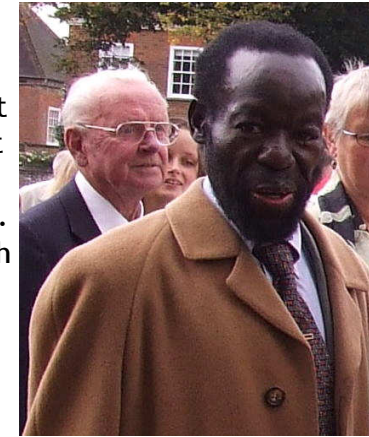
## Alpha

**Starts Tuesday 2nd March  
At The Parish Centre**



## Jackson Ngwangki

I first met Jackson when he came to my father's secondary school in Uganda about 1967. We learned that he was a Sudanese refugee and an orphan. He had been living with his uncle but many miles away from the school. When it came to holidays he had nowhere to go and so



he stayed with us as a family and my parents unofficially adopted him. My brother Tim and I were so pleased to have an African brother.

I remember safari trips and Christmas holidays in Uganda when Jackson was with us. On one occasion my Dad took the three of us gorilla hunting in the Rwandan mountains. We never found any but, on the way back to Kabale where my Mum and Aunt Mary were anxiously waiting for us to return, the car broke down on the edge of a crater lake and we were stuck in the middle of nowhere until about 2am in the morning! Jackson stayed with me in the car to guard me while Tim and my Dad went to get help. The village chief, who my Dad had paid to guard us both, just sat in the front of the car and snored!

When my parents returned to the UK in 1970 they decided to continue sponsoring Jackson so that he could complete his school education in this country and then study to be a biochemist. He did well and eventually gained his F.I.B.M.S. He moved two or three times trying to find a hospital where he was happy and could fit in with the staff. Unfortunately he often seemed to encounter prejudice and so found it hard to settle anywhere.

Jackson's last job was at Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry and in 1996 he was at last able to buy a house of his own. He hoped to get married to a Sudanese lady but sadly that did not work out. However, God provided him with several Christian friends in Coventry and he managed to renew contact with his remaining Sudanese family in South Sudan including his uncle whom he had lived with as a young boy and his cousin Santino who lives in Manchester. Father Moses - himself a Sudanese from near Juba, South Sudan where Jackson comes from - is a Roman Catholic priest and has been a close friend of

Jackson's. He was sent by his R.C. Order to Foleshill, Coventry a few years ago, a few roads away from where Jackson lived! One day he discovered Jackson and they became close friends. God is good! Father Moses has supported Jackson as he struggled with illness for much of the last two or three years and as the doctors were continually mystified by Jackson's chronic condition. Jackson always seemed to remain cheerful and optimistic and this I believe was because of his strong faith. However, he did feel passionately about the suffering of his people who were having to endure years of war in South Sudan and suffered with them in spirit.

On August Bank Holiday Jackson went into a diabetic coma for about ten days but then came round, recovering his speech and mobility a little, but he remained very poorly. God took him home on November 13<sup>th</sup> and ended his suffering. It was a moving service on November 28<sup>th</sup> at St. Elizabeth's Church in Coventry when Sudanese, Asian (Jackson's neighbours), and English were united in saying 'Farewell' to Jackson and in giving thanks to God for someone who blessed all our lives. Many of the Sudanese community came to pay their respects, from London, Manchester, and Leeds. The wives and mums put on a Sudanese feast for us all afterwards and we were overwhelmed by their generosity and love. We all feel as though we have been welcomed into an entirely new family. And we have a new Sudanese brother in Father Moses.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> Jackson's body will be repatriated to the Sudan where he will be buried in his homeland and near where his remaining relatives live. I hope one day to see where my dear brother is buried and,

## United Churches Worship in Blandford

The Churches of Blandford will be uniting for an all age service in BFPC at 1030 on Sunday 17th January, followed by a lunch at the URC in Whitecliff Mill Street to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There will also be a prayer meeting at the Catholic Church also in Whitecliff Mill Street, but further up!) at 7.30pm on Monday 18th January. We have recognised that we will not see our Vision of "Every Road in Blandford Baptised in the Love of God" without our working alongside our fellow Christians in the town - come and worship together and pray together, that this will be a reality.