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Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Blandford Forum

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Mark Riley (860718)
Wardens: Sara Loch (450278)
Gail del Pinto (451573)
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@Parish Centre
Fridays at 10.30am Prayers at Langton Long
Saturday Morning Coffee House



Sun 2nd "What have you got?"
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC
11.00am Morning Prayer at LL

Mon 3rd Georgian Fayre
Tues 4th Prayer Day:
9am Prayer at Parish centre
12 noon at Langton
8pm Prayer at BFPC

Wed 5th Homegroups meet
Fri 7th Thai meal at Parish centre
Sat 8th Clean Up Blandford campaign

Sun 9th "What have you got to share?"
9.00am CW Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am Worship @ The Centre
11.00am Holy Communion BCP at LL

Wed 12th Homegroups meet
Thurs 13th Christian Aid collection
MU meet @ The Parish Centre

Fri 14th Kids@the Centre evening
Sat 15th Big Breakfast- Andy Rimmer
"Christianity & Sport"

Sun 16th "Equipped for Battle"
9.00am BCP Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am Morning Worship at BFPC
11.00am Holy Communion CW at LL

Wed 19th Homegroups Meet

Sun 23rd "The Belt of Truth"
9.00am Morning Prayer at BFPC
10.30am Holy Communion at BFPC
11.00am All Age Worship at LL

Wed 26th Homegroups meet

Sun 30th "Trinity Sunday"
9.00am Holy Communion at BFPC
10.30am Worship @ The Centre
11.00am Morning Prayer at LL

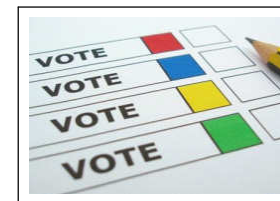


So Who Will You Vote For?

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Matthew 22:36-39

Who Will You Vote For? It's the big question - and not an easy one for many, many people. The opinion polls reflect the fluid nature of so much of the thinking around at the moment as the nation seeks to find a sure basis on which they can put their "X" on



6th May. If you are hoping that I can give you an indicator - sorry! I am finding this as hard as everyone else. I was sent a very helpful article this week which might be of help ...

"When it comes to putting a cross on our ballot, the obvious but often unasked question is: What are we ultimately hoping to achieve by voting? We are clearly trying to change the country in some way, but when we step back from the individual policies, parties and candidates, what do we want the overall picture to look like in practice? It is only when we know this purpose that we can then grasp some of the ideals and values against which we can judge a party's policies. Faced with the question from a Pharisee about the greatest commandment, Jesus summarised the Law and the Prophets not in terms of a single rule (such as murder or theft), but in terms of the principles that underpin the entire Law: love for God, and love for neighbour. In voting language, his overarching concern was not the economy, unemployment, immigration or healthcare, but something more fundamental: right relationships in every area of life. 'All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' Every law in the Old Testament regulates some aspect of a relationship, whether business, family, international, between an individual and God or between two people.

Whilst this gives us a guiding biblical principle for voting - and integrating our faith into our lives as a whole - there are at least two problems. One is that party politics today is often fought on single issues, rather than the 'big picture'. This means that even if a party adopts a 'relational' policy we approve of in one area, it doesn't mean the same will apply in other areas. Without consistency in this regard anywhere across the political spectrum, we have to weigh up the different parties and select the best, or least-worst, to support. The other problem is potentially more serious. Voting often doesn't even get as far as the substance of the parties' manifestos, but instead runs aground on spin and personality. Alternatively, people can make up their minds before they even know the parties' differences, voting one way or another because they, or their families or wider communities, always have. In the London mayoral election of 2008, for example, voting for Boris Johnson (Conservative) or Ken Livingstone (Labour) correlated strongly with white and ethnic minority populations respectively; ethnicity was a stronger predictor of voting choice than class. The challenge is to see beyond the window-dressing to what is truly of significance. No matter how charismatic (or otherwise) a party leader, or how strong our existing loyalties and affiliations, substance is what really counts. When we vote, how much are we reflecting earthly values, and how much are we, like the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11:13-16, ambassadors of heaven who recognise that we are strangers on earth? In the words of the Lord's prayer, whose Will is done: ours or God's?"

The next week or two are going to be full of people telling us on TV or on our doorsteps why they think we should vote for them. Maybe there will be good reasons to do so - but I found these words very helpful in focussing my thoughts on the real, underlying issues that face us at this election. Whoever you vote for and whatever the result may be, please pray for our local candidates as well as the party leaders, that they will hear God's voice and be guided by his Spirit in what they say and do, that honesty and integrity would return to politics and that this nation may be guided by its leaders back into God's ways.

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 4th May Prayer Day at Blandford & LL

9am @ Parish centre - 12noon @ Langton -
8pm @ Blandford Church
Prayer requests to 456260 or prayer@bfpc.org.uk
by Sunday 2nd May, please!



You are Invited to...

The Big Breakfast

In Blandford Parish Centre

9.00am - 11.00am
Saturday 15th May

Guest Speaker

Andy Rimmer

(Chaplain, AFC Bournemouth)

“Faith and Football”

Tickets £3 (includes cooked breakfast).

Children’s work available

Available from Office and Set Fair 4 Trade.

Phone: 01258- 456260 or Email:office@bfpc.org.uk
for more details.



MILTON BLANDFORD DEANERY

MARKET PLACE

Saturday May 15 10.30 - 2 p.m.
BLANDFORD SCHOOL
Talk by the Bishop of Sherborne at 11:15
**COME AND FIND OUT WHAT THE
LOCAL CHURCHES ARE UP TO!**

Come & go as you please Bring a picnic lunch - drinks provided

Worship Jesus @ The Centre

Every 2nd & 5th Sunday @ 10.30am

(Refreshments from 10.00am!)



From May 2010, the 10.30am services on the second and fifth Sundays each month will take place in the Parish Centre.

There will be a time of worship, teaching and fun for all ages lasting about 45 minutes.
(Coffee will be available at both venues)

Something for Everyone!

Bring Your Friends!

Clean up Blandford Campaign Saturday 8th May

Meet 10am at Ham & Marsh Car Park
Followed by refreshments and brewery tours at Hall & Woodhouse



Clean up Blandford would like names in advance, please let the office know if you are able to come.

News from Langton Long



April has been very busy. It started with the Easter celebrations and was followed by a double baptism a week later. The month also ended with a double baptism! Both baptism services were taken by Rosy.

Our AGM took place on the 18th of the month. Colin Miles and John Hellewell will continue as our wardens for another year and we welcome Barbara Ward onto the PCC.

The coffee mornings on the third Wednesday of the month have really taken off now and it is a delight to be able to welcome so many visitors, not only people from the neighbourhood but also from further afield such as Wimborne. Our new notice board seems to be more eye-catching and attracting more interest.

Saturday 10th saw some of us serving morning coffee in BFPC to a steady flow of people.

We were saddened to hear about Ian Savile’s death and would like to pass on our condolences to his family. He was a great support to our congregation during the interregnum and a true gentleman.

Annette Orton.

Baptisms:
24th April at LL: Kenzie Morris
Riley Morris



Funerals:
14th April at BFPC: Rosemary Coker
21st April at BFPC: Grace Woodcock
28th April at LL: Arthur Park