

Contact Us

The Church Office is open 9.00 am - 12.30pm Mon - Fri.

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For further information visit our website
<https://blandford.churchinsight.com/> or our Facebook Page [https://www.facebook.com/ blandfordparishchurch/](https://www.facebook.com/blandfordparishchurch/)

Benefice Administrator: Tina Stanley

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Blandford Parish Church-

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Benefice of Blandford Forum and Langton Long Weekly News Sunday 6h September 2020

Collect.

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear
witness
that you were in Christ reconciling
the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news
of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to
you;
through him who was lifted up on
the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever

I

The Week Ahead:

Thursday 10th September 7pm
Weekly Zoom Prayer Meeting

Please contact the Church Office if
you would like to join this meeting

Saturday 12th September

Ride and Stride

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 20th September 4pm
APCM at Blandford Parish Church

Services

Sunday 6th September

Reading: Luke 24:13-35

10.00am Online Service

Blandford Parish Church Facebook Page

Blandford Parish Church

Reading: Matthew 22: 37 – 40.

9.15am Said Holy Communion Service

Leading and Preaching:

Rev. Canon Jonathan Triffitt

9.00am-11am Open for Private Prayer

Stewards: Tina Stanley and Diane
Beasley

All Saints Church. Langton Long

No Service—Church Currently Closed

4th September 2020

Dear Friends,

Monday the 31st August was legally my last day as Rector of Blandford Forum & Langton Long, though I will be taking Sunday services in Blandford Parish Church for the remainder of September.

Leaving a Benefice is always a hard thing to do. It's even harder during a pandemic, when the church is unable to gather in our normal way and goodbyes and thanks are harder to articulate.

As a family we leave with heavy hearts but also grateful ones. Our hearts are heavy because we have loved being part of this community, we have made many connections and journeyed with individuals, families and communities through highs and lows, points of celebration as well as moments of sorrow. Blandford is a place that has very much felt like home and we will miss the town, the people, and surrounding beauty of this place.

There is also a heaviness of heart for the times when I have got it wrong. When I have missed those moments to step more fully into God's leading. For those times, when I've said the wrong thing, or the right thing in the wrong way! For people who I have upset, disappointed or let down and for those moments and times I apologise.

We also leave with grateful hearts for all that God has been doing in this place during our time here. We are particularly grateful for the Community Kitchen, and how through generous hospitality we have been able to encounter hundreds of people who we may not otherwise have connected with. The Community Kitchen was also a significant vehicle for deepening the unity of the Benefice as members of both Blandford Parish Church and Langton Long have come together, to serve together and this has been lovely to see and experience.

We are grateful for how Blandford Parish Church has emerged from the backdrop of the town to be a place that has re-established good and strong relationships with the wider community, Town Council, and especially our local schools. I still recall reading a letter in the Forum Focus following the completion of the Cupola that the "Renewal of the Cupola was symbolic of the renewal of the town." This from a "non-churched" person, a prophetic declaration that identified the church as being at the heart of the DNA of Blandford and the surrounding area.

We are grateful for the dedication and commitment of those who have worked closely with us, during our time here. For all who have served in Blandford and Langton as Churchwardens and Treasurers, for Tina in the office and for the work of the PCC's, & LPA's. For the unsung heroes who give their time and energy to serve, clean, maintain and care for others, quietly and humbly going about their daily lives reflecting the Kingdom of God and revealing the Father's love in all that they do. It's one of the beautiful features of the body of Christ, when the people of God simply get on with the task at hand, with humility and grace.

We also leave expectant of what is to come, both for us as a family, but also for you as a worshipping community. God is faithful, and if God has called us as a family to move on, then God has already identified who will come and build on the foundations that have been laid by us and our predecessors. This is a time when people will feel unsettled & uncertain. That challenges may seem great and the resources few, those feelings are "normal" though the context it slightly more challenging. However, that does not take away the reality of the goodness of God and His abundant provision. As the Proverb 3: 5 reminds us, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." This is a time to lean into that trust, to keep our eyes fixed firmly upon Christ and take courage to follow where the Spirit will lead, for the best is yet to come.

For all that has been, thank you Lord, and for all this is to come AMEN!

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel!



Revd Canon Jonathan Triffitt

APCM: Blandford Parish Church APCM will be held in church on Sunday September 20th at 4.00 pm and will be chaired by Archdeacon Antony MacRow-Wood. It is at this meeting that two churchwardens and new PCC members are elected. Debby has decided not to seek re-election as churchwarden and there are 6 vacancies on the PCC.. If you are interested in filling any of these positions then please contact Tina in the office for a nomination form.

Prior to this meeting Blandford Standing Committee chaired by Dan Roberts will meet on September 2nd and the full PCC, chaired by a churchwarden, will meet on September 9th. This meeting will review the 2019 annual report and accounts.

Langton Long PCC will meet on September 17th.

A joint Blandford PCC/Langton Long PCC meeting, chaired by Archdeacon Antony MacRow-Wood, is expected to be held sometime in October to review the vacancy

Bible Book Club: The Book for September is 2 Peter