

May 2022

# Around Langley



*Marish Court*

**A FREE** magazine published by the  
Langley Churches for the people of Langley

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## Candidates at Local Elections 2022

### Langley Kedermister

BROOKER Preston (Labour and  
Cooperative )  
O'REILLY Sharon Teresa Bernadette  
(Conservative)  
SAHOTA Dawinderpal Singh  
(Independent)  
SALEM Tammer Hatem (Green)

### Langley St Mary's

BAMIGBOLA Christine  
(Conservative)  
EDMONDS Julian Edward Jubal  
(Green)  
HASSAN Jibril Mohamed  
(Independent)  
MINHAS Harj (Labour and  
Cooperative)

### Upton

BAINS Balvinder Singh (Labour)  
HANNEY Josephine Mary (Liberal  
Democrats)  
RANA Neel Rattan (Conservative)

### Colnbrook with Poyle

BEDI Puja (Conservative)  
CHEEMA Avtar Kaur (Labour)

### Wexham Lea

AHMED Mubashir (Conservative)  
DAR Haqeeq Ashraf (Labour and  
Cooperative )

**Don't forget to vote on  
5<sup>th</sup> May**

## *“...the Wonder of His Work...”*



*Easter has come and gone but its message of rebirth is still reflected all around us in nature: seeds are sprouting, leaves and blossoms are bursting out and birds are flitting around building new nests. How our hearts go out to*

*those people in Ukraine and other areas of conflict where hope is at a premium and new life seems so far away. Those of us who have faith in God the Creator are still left wondering 'why'.*

*Most people will know about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There is another anniversary of local significance we can celebrate: the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the astronomer Sir William Herschel's death. His connection with the church of St Laurence at Upton has been mentioned in these pages before (See the issue July/August 2021). The Upton church of St Laurence is celebrating the event with an exhibition and talk (see page 8).*

*Readers may not be aware that the composer Josef Haydn, made two extensive musical tours of London. It was during one of those that he was inspired to write the much-acclaimed oratorio 'The Creation'. It is said that Haydn was invited to see Herschel's telescope and that it was the night sky seen through the telescope that inspired him to compose The Creation. By a happy coincidence, Sough Philharmonic Society is performing Part 1 of Creation in May (see page 8)!*

*So on to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Sad to say, I have had no response to the invitation to share stories of Her Majesty's coronation and other events with our readers. I hope you will send in reports of your celebrations that you would like to share with the rest of the community.*

**Anna Thomas-Betts**

# News from Around Langley

## Langley Neighbourhood Forum



The next meeting of LNF will be on Monday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Langley Hall Primary Academy.

Nikki Hopkins, a Paramedic at Langley Health Centre, will give a talk entitled: 'Update on local Health Services'.

## Langley Community Coffee Shop



We are in a period of great worry for many people: over rising food prices and energy bills as well as health issues caused by the Covid Pandemic and delays in treatment with the NHS. Then there is the abominable invasion of Ukraine by Russia and anxiety about where it will end.

At Easter, the word that springs to mind is Hope, especially that Ukraine will overcome the aggression of Russia. We usually depend on our routines for a sense of security. Remember that routines like the weekly Coffee Shop, the group meetings at the Free Church and, on the third Thursday afternoon of the month, REFRESH meetings at St Francis are available and open to everyone.

One of the aims of the Coffee Shop is to bring the work of Charities to our meeting place, and in April we had Diana Iller talking about Traidcraft. It was good to hear about the initiatives to ensure that producers of goods worldwide get a fair price for them and that the profits are used to benefit producers and their communities directly. In May we hope to have a speaker from Slough Foodbank: further information will be in the church newsletters.

Our trip to Eastbourne is planned for 21<sup>st</sup> June for which we are hiring a 32-seater coach. I shall be collecting the deposit of £10 for the trip during this month. Our exercise classes of 30 minutes will continue to run each week apart from the weeks when we have a speaker.

Just to remind everyone that our meetings are at St Joseph's Hall at the back of the Holy Family Church, every Tuesday, 10am until 11.30am. So, if you are on your own and would like to meet new friends please come and join us.

*Sheila Papali*

## Slough in Bloom

Spring is here at last and with it comes Slough in Bloom competition of 2022. The competition will be launched on 11<sup>th</sup> May, with the closing date for entries being 2<sup>nd</sup> July.



Slough in Bloom 2022 includes categories for residential front gardens and allotments, as well as businesses. This year in order to encourage concerns for caring for the environment a category to recognise effort for this has been added.

Previous entrants will be sent entry forms by email or post, but if you are

new to the idea of entering, and would like a form, they will be available in libraries or please contact me, Margaret Inniss, on 01753 595838. And of course you can enter your neighbour's efforts, or encourage them to enter.

Langley has always done well with colourful displays which make us all smile when we see them and many of those entries have won gold awards in previous Slough in Bloom competitions. I hope there will be even more entries this year. Do contact me if you have any queries.

**Margaret Inniss**  
**Chair of Slough in Bloom**

 Lighthouse Langley, a holiday club for primary school aged children, is making a come back this summer and preparations are in full swing for another fun-filled week at St Bernard's Grammar School. We are looking for volunteers to help make Lighthouse Langley as amazing as it was in 2019.

The dates for 2022 are  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> until Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July.**  
Child registration opens **14<sup>th</sup> May.**

Please sign up online  
[www.lighthousecentral.org/get-involved](http://www.lighthousecentral.org/get-involved)



**Save the Children**

**Plant Sale**  
**21<sup>st</sup> May 2-4pm at**  
**196 Langley Road**  
*Bedding plants,*  
*vegetable seedlings,*  
*perennials...*



*Tea & cake on the lawn*



**Concert**  
**12<sup>th</sup> June 6.00pm in**  
**St Mary's Church**  
*Berkshire Recorder Consort*  
*and Marlow Belles*

Tickets at the door £10

Contact: Liz Jones 07930 310 201

# 'From Pericles to Putin'



This is the subtitle of the book 'A short history of Europe' by Simon Jenkins, that I started to read just as Russia invaded Ukraine. You know something of Vladimir Putin but probably not Pericles.

He was a politician in what has been called the golden age of Athens around 500 BC, and is largely credited with promoting art and literature, helping develop the first democratic society, as well as playing a leading role in wars against the Persians and the Spartan league.

Putin is of course a contemporary leader, and my personal connection with Russian history is that I happened to be in Moscow on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1991, when campaigners were on the streets ahead of the referendum that led to the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Simon Jenkins' book covers a period of four and a half thousand years up to 2018, when he wrote it. This article is in not a critique or review, rather my thoughts of things until the end of the first millennium. I shall write a sequel in which we can see if a clearer picture of Europe emerges.

There are ten maps at the start of the book, and they show the differences from the time of the Roman Empire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD to the European Union and

NATO in 2018. Boundaries change significantly in these maps, and one shows a world which was, or had been, almost entirely made up of European empires at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Something that may come as a surprise to many is that countries as we know them are a relatively modern construct, and that their residents did not, or still do not, appear as clearly identifiable groups. The present war in Ukraine, and earlier ones in the Balkans are examples of this.

The Greek values that Pericles and others developed became embedded into the societies that Philip of Macedon, and his son Alexander conquered up to 323 BC. They were often adopted, and adapted, by the Romans, who conquered all those territories and more, as they occupied most of Europe, the Middle East and the top of North Africa until the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. There are still many buildings that stand testimony to those civilizations.

As with many empires, the Romans found that, even with their policies of absorbing local populations and territories, theirs became too large to manage. So, in 305 Diocletian divided it into two before abdicating. Subsequently Constantine reunited the two parts, setting up Constantinople (now Istanbul), where he ruled, in the East and a new 'Rome' at Milan for the Western Empire. He also set up a Council at Nicaea in 325, at which he oversaw the establishment of a clearer understanding of the Christian Godhead.

As the power of Rome faltered, until its final demise in 476, Europe was constantly facing aggressors, who were keen to conquer new lands, or to take away treasure. The map of Europe early in the 6<sup>th</sup> century shows Gothic and Frankish kingdoms occupying most territories to the west of the Eastern (Byzantine) Roman Empire, centred on Constantinople, while the Huns controlled territory north of the river Danube.

Early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium, Western Europe had begun to take shape and the Eastern Empire, after many serious threats, fell in 1453 to form part of the Ottoman Empire, which ran from Hungary and Romania in the north and included Spain and Greece.

An example of that development of Western Europe is Emperor Charlemagne and, what came to be known as the Holy Roman Empire, in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Charlemagne was the grandson of Charles Martel who was largely responsible for quelling the advance of the Ottomans in

the south of Europe in 732. The alliance Charlemagne built with Pope Leo III was the third in succession, which mutually benefitted secular rulers and the leader of the Western Christian church. Charlemagne's empire included all of what is now France and Germany, and the northern half of Italy, including Rome. Turkey and much of Spain was under Muslim control.

Although there had been previous invasions of European lands from the north, towards the end of the first millennium there came a sustained attack from Vikings, or Norsemen, from Scandinavia. Initially they raided and left but then turned to occupy and intermingle, particularly in England and northwest France where the region became known as Normandy.

As a final thought, how would you have felt if you were having to pay a tax toward the Danegeld that the Vikings, or Norsemen, were demanding to ensure your safety?

**Tony Randall**



## **KEDERMISTER PEW & LIBRARY**

‘The Jewel of Slough’ (Simon Jenkins in *England’s Thousand Best Churches*)

St Mary's Church, St Mary's Road, Langley,  
Slough SL3 7EL

**Open Days in 2022:** 1<sup>st</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June,  
3<sup>rd</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> September

**2.30 to 5pm**

[www.Langleymarish.com/stmary/kedermister-library/](http://www.Langleymarish.com/stmary/kedermister-library/)

## Haydn *The Creation* (part 1)

Tchaikovsky Polonaise and Waltz (Eugene Onegin)

Beethoven Overture: Leonore No.2

Brahms Song of Destiny

Mozart arias: Non più andrai, I mio Tesoro

Dyson Four Songs for Sailors

Georgie Malcolm (soprano)

William Searle (tenor)

Julian Debreuil (bass)

SLOUGH PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA and CHORUS  
MARLOW COMMUNITY CHOIR

Leon Gee conductor

7.30pm, Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

Braywick Leisure Centre,  
Maidenhead, SL6 1BN

Box Office: sloughphil.org  
or 0300 365 7445

## St Laurence's Church (Upton Court Road, Slough SL3 7LS)

celebrates the Bi-centenary of  
William Herschel's death with  
Themed exhibition displays,  
films, talks, music

### "HERSCHEL 200"

2<sup>nd</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Open 10.30am-4.00pm (Mon - Sat)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 7.30pm -

"The Herschels, telescopes and more"

Presentation by Ron Lewin

Entrance Free; donations welcome

[www.saint-laurence.com](http://www.saint-laurence.com)

## Around Langley

### NEEDS YOU

We are always looking  
for people to report on local  
issues as well as writers who  
would like to contribute articles  
to the magazine.

### We also need editorial help!

Please contact the Editor if you  
are interested in helping:  
[A.thomasbetts@gmail.com](mailto:A.thomasbetts@gmail.com)

## Richings Park Bowls Club

As part of a national campaign run by  
Bowls England to increase interest in  
the sport, an Open Day will be held at  
Richings Park on  
Sunday 29th May, 2pm onwards.

The Club offers free training and social  
activities, so if you are looking for  
gentle exercise in friendly company,  
why not try us out? Just come along  
with a pair of flat shoes on the Open  
Day, or visit

[www.richingsparkbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.richingsparkbowlsclub.co.uk)



# SLOUGH WOMENS ALLOTMENT PROJECT

We are looking for female volunteers to support a new allotment project for pregnant women



If you are:

- Interested in gardening and being outdoors
- Sympathetic and open to helping vulnerable pregnant women
- Available approx. 2 hours per week
- Have your own transport or able to use public transport

Free training will be provided

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To find out more contact 01753 572958  
or [office@hsslough.co.uk](mailto:office@hsslough.co.uk)



Home-Start Slough is a local charity providing support, friendship, and practical help to parents of young children in



## Postscripts...

*Patriarch Kirill: "In the war, our soldiers martyred themselves so that we could be free and independent. Only Russians are capable of sacrificing themselves to save humanity, just like Jesus did... There are no Ukrainians, only 'peoples of Holy Russia'. (Putin's Church, April 2022)*

*SBC Leader Councillor Swindlehurst on 30 March: 'Slough Council has been Labour controlled for 36 of the last 40 years, and there is no scenario in which we as elected politicians from the Labour group are not responsible for what goes on in this town.'*

*(Fading Visions of Slough, April 2022)*

*Lord Rowan Williams on Pope Francis' synodal reforms: 'one of the most positive and helpful developments in the Roman Catholic repertoires in recent years... although internal tensions might be hard to handle'. He wryly observes that he was speaking as someone with a 'little bit' of experience of handling unmanageable diversity; 'all the same, a new theological agenda is opening up which is very rich.'*

*(Synodality, March 2022)*

# Regular Weekly Service Times



## Holy Family (Roman Catholic) (Trelawney Avenue)

We will be having Masses at 5pm on Saturdays and 9.30am and 11.30am on Sundays

The 9.30am Mass is live streamed on our YouTube Channel:  
"HOLYFAMILYCHURCHLIVE"

## Langley Free Church (Baptist) (Trelawney Avenue)

Please note that there will be services on all Sundays at 10.30am. Those attending church will be expected to wear a mask until seated. Communion will be as normal, or using individual, disposable plastic cups. The pattern of services in May will be as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> All age service

8<sup>th</sup> Communion service

15<sup>th</sup> Normal worship

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday School Anniversary Service

On 29<sup>th</sup> May We will be starting "40 Days in the Word" supplied by  
[www.purposedriven.co.uk](http://www.purposedriven.co.uk)

## The Anglican Churches

The Bishop of Buckingham will hold a **Confirmation Service** on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 11am at St Mary the Virgin church.

**Ascension Day Service** at Christ the Worker church: 26<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm

### St Mary (St Mary's Road)

**8am** Holy Communion (BCP, said)

**11am** Family Communion

### Christ the Worker (Parlaunt Road)

**9.30am** Holy Communion on Second and Fourth Sundays

**11am** Service of the Word on First, Third and Fifth Sundays

### St Francis of Assisi (London Road)

**9.30am** Holy Communion on First, Second and Third Sundays

**11am** Service of the Word (all-age) on Fourth Sunday

**9.30am** Fifth Sunday, no fixed format

# Regular Church Activities at Langley Free Church

## Small Groups

*There are two small groups held, one in the morning based at a home and the other at 7.30pm in the church. The sessions are based on Biblical text, Biblical characters or the Christian perspective on contemporary issues. All are welcome. For more information email [secretary@langleyfree.org.uk](mailto:secretary@langleyfree.org.uk) or phone the church number 01753 540771*

## 'MONDAYS'

If it's company you're after, why not join us, at Langley Free Church on a Monday, for a cuppa—any time between 10.30am and 2.30pm. **N.B. We are closed on Bank holiday Mondays, 2<sup>nd</sup> May.**

Come for an hour or two, or stay for longer. Lunch is not provided, so **please bring your own lunch with you.** There will be a Fish and Chips option on the first Monday of the month. Entry charge: £2.

## Chatcaf coffee morning @ LFC

The first and third Saturdays of the month (7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> May) 10am-12noon.



No charge! Feel free to drop in for coffee/tea and toast and a chat!

## Oasis at Langley Free

Wednesdays from 1.30 to 3.30pm

A time of worship and speakers, with refreshments, and occasional meals out.

Programme for May:

4<sup>th</sup> Ann Portsmouth

11<sup>th</sup> David Hallam, SASRA

18<sup>th</sup> Tea and Sharing

25<sup>th</sup> John Bernard

Contact: Ann Portsmouth on 01753 585845



## Craft Afternoons 2022 at LFC 12—4pm

**In May the meeting will be on 28th May,** although we normally meet on the third Saturday of the month. We get together over a cup of tea and cake to do some knitting or sewing, or crocheting. Or to make cards or jewellery. But you don't need to bring anything, just come along for the company. (Suggested donation of £2 towards refreshments.)

Pop along anytime between 12 and 4pm to Langley Free Church, 100 Trelawney Avenue, SL3 8RW.

For more information, contact: Chris Wheatley – 07789 838 500





# Faith Matters

## The Holy Spirit

In Christian iconography, God the Father is depicted as a benign old man, God the son usually as a middle-aged man and the Holy Spirit as a dove. The Council of Nicaea (325 AD) defined its faith in a Triune God, One in nature and three in persons. The words 'nature' and 'person' are Greek concepts unknown in the Semitic world. This partly explains why Judaism and Islam firmly reject the Christian dogma of a triune God. But Christianity bases its definition of a triune God on the self-revelation of God in the Old, and especially in the New, Testament. The existence of 'God's spirit' (Gen 1:2) hovering over the water and 'the spirit of the Lord' moving Isaiah to prophecy (61:1) are two of the many texts in the Old Testament that speak of the Spirit as a distinct reality. That Jesus claims to have a Father in heaven is all over the New Testament, and that the Holy Spirit together with the apostles takes decisions in Acts is the basis of the Nicæan Creed.

The representation of the Holy Spirit as a dove is an intriguing subject. Scholars have explained that what the text describing the baptism of Jesus says is not that the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove, but that God's blessing swooped from above on Jesus

as a dove would swoop down. But the figure of a dove has remained in history, something visible to describe the Holy Spirit. So, the existence of God as Father, Son and Spirit is not only foreshadowed but actually affirmed in the Bible, though not using Greek concepts of nature and person. The Church gives a new and unprecedented meaning to these two terms which signify a mystery 'infinitely beyond all that we can humanly understand'. (Catechism of the CC. n 251).

Pentecost (the word means 'fiftieth' in Greek) is celebrated 50 days after Easter. It was (and still is) the Jewish feast of Shavuot, 50 days after the first day of the Jewish Passover feast. For Jews, it marks the wheat harvest in Israel (Ex 34:22). Traditionally, it marks the revelation of the Torah (the ten commandments) to Moses on Mt Sinai. The liturgical calendar for the feast of Pentecost in our churches has three readings. The first is from Luke (2: 1-11) which tells us how the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles after Jesus' ascension into heaven while the third reading from John (20:19:22) tells us that Jesus 'breathed' the Holy Spirit on the disciples on the evening of the very day when he rose from the dead.

The Bible is not a biography or a diary about the life of Jesus. It just reports two different traditions. Its purpose is



*Be who you are created to be and you  
will set the world on fire –  
Catherine of Siena*

to give us the message and the invitation to accept it, to believe that the Holy Spirit was given to his first disciples by Jesus. The second reading tells us that God gives the same one Holy Spirit to each one who believes and is baptised. He is therefore wholly present in each uniting us into one Church, the body of Christ (1 Cor 12...). At the eucharist we pray that we 'may be filled with the Holy Spirit, and become one body, one Spirit in Christ'. One cannot speak of the Holy Spirit except in a trinitarian perspective. The divine persons are essentially relational, and all are one in substance, divine. In the Bible it is John who comes closest to the wording of the trinitarian formula. He writes in Jn 14 about Jesus asking the Father to send the Paracletos (advocate or counsellor).

For many years the Church seemed out of its depth struggling to find words that grasped with sufficient clarity the mystery of the triune God. In a sense it is more fruitful to know what the Holy Spirit does than to speculate on who the Holy Spirit is. The Holy Spirit empowers the life and worship of the Church by bringing

it as a community of faith to God the Father through the living presence of His Son. The Spirit takes our poor prayers and, so to say, makes them His own. The role of the Church is to be always open to respond to the Spirit's action wherever it is found.

Through its ministry the Church reconciles all sinners to the Father, through the Holy Spirit. It baffles some Christians when they are told that God forgives all sins except those against the Holy Spirit. This simply means that God does not (and cannot!) forgive people who are not sorry for their sins, thus refusing his mercy and his love. The nature and role of the Spirit are very beautifully described in the Bible and in Church's teaching. He is the Spirit of Jesus, promised and sent by him. He transforms us into brothers and sisters of Jesus, making us because of our union with him, sons and daughters of the Father. I find myself somewhat out of my depth when the Spirit is described as the love between the Father and the Son. I feel more at home with seeing Him as the inner teacher, teaching us how to pray and uniting us together. Among the Spirit's many gifts are wisdom, fortitude and discernment. The Spirit purifies, sanctifies and transforms us. He takes up our poor and inadequate prayers making them acceptable to God. And so we pray: "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love."

*Alfred Agius*

# Sacrifice

Sacrifice is a word that we use lightly these days: try counting up how many times it occurs in our regular worship, or on the news and then pause to think about what it means to you when you hear or say it. Readers will remember that Alfred Agius wrote last month in *Around Langley* about human sacrifice, and what the sacrifice on Calvary means to the church. The origins of sacrifice, as a way of appeasing gods, do go back to the beginning of recorded history and it really makes for horrendous reading.

Christianity has at its core Jesus' death on the cross, God accepting his death as a sacrifice to atone for the sin of the world. Furthermore, we celebrate his death and resurrection in our Communion. So it is worth exploring the origins of the concept of sacrifice a bit. Early in the Bible we read how Abraham was spared making a sacrifice of his son, Isaac; thereafter the practice of human sacrifice died out among his descendants.

However, *animal* sacrifices continued in the temple according to strict and detailed regulations set out in Leviticus. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest of Israel sacrificed a bull as an offering for his own sins – clearly much greater than those of the people, because only two goats were needed to deal with the collective sins of God's people! One goat was killed at the altar

and offered as a blood sacrifice, while the other was the scapegoat, sent away to wander and in the wilderness saddled with a burden which represented the sins of the people.

The altars at the temple was where animal sacrifices were made as atonement for the sins of human beings. The priest who performed this would robe in his priestly vestments of fine linen and wash his hands before approaching the altar; there animals would be killed and offerings of blood and meat made. Any resemblance of all this to what we do in the church, especially at Holy Communion, strike you? The resemblance is of course entirely intentional... Indeed I have often wondered how puzzling the concept of Jesus 'bearing the sin of the world' must be to people of other cultures and faiths.

It was only in 71 AD, when the temple was destroyed yet again, that the practice of animal sacrifices eventually died out in Judaism. The temple in Jerusalem was nearly completed in Jesus' day, and ritual sacrifices would have been part of the reality of his daily life, as we know from the incident at the temple when Jesus overturned the tables of the moneychangers. The narratives of the last supper are redolent with allusions to sacrifice including eating the flesh of the sacrificed animal (again specified in Leviticus).

A problem with all rituals is that while there are probably very good reasons



### Remembering Jesus' sacrifice on the cross on Calvary

why they were instituted, with time it is easy to forget what it is all about. The Old Testament prophets were very aware of the dangers of simply doing the rituals. Isaiah and Jeremiah spoke out against those who brought sacrifices but did not live in accord with the Law. The Prophets Amos, Hosea, Malachi... condemned sacrifices that were offered without a regeneration of the heart, that is, a determined turning from sin and returning to God by striving after righteousness. Jesus took this very much to heart as we see in his teachings.

With this as background, I would like to touch briefly on our Holy Communion service. The Hebrew, Arabic and I guess Aramaic, word for sacrifice is Qurban – in the community where I grew up my Syrian Orthodox friends went to church for the Holy Qurbana, meaning Holy Communion. As I alluded to earlier, the similarities between our rituals and the ancient sacrifices are striking.

But we have a paradox in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We think of Jesus as the high priest (whose job as we've noted was to kill the sacrificial animals and offer it to God) as well as being the sacrifice. Eucharistic Prayer C of Anglican Common Worship, based on the Book of Common Prayer, focuses on the priesthood of Christ and offers a resolution. The preface says, 'For he is our great high priest, who has loosed us from our sins and has made us to be a royal priesthood to you...' And then in the institution narrative, before we hear about the blessing of the bread and wine we have: 'by his death upon the cross for our redemption, made there one oblation (or offering) of himself, a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world'. Here was a high priest offering a sacrifice – but the sacrifice is of himself. That is what we celebrate week after week at Holy Communion.

And we are also a sacrifice. After communion we pray: "through him [Jesus] we offer [God] our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice". Sacrifice literally means of course 'made holy'. 'Living Sacrifice' is an idea that I find profound. I have reflected on it a lot: when going through difficult times myself and when seeing innocent people suffering unjustly. Does it simply mean that we live as 'holy people'? Maybe I can invite you also to reflect on what it means—to you.

**Anna Thomas-Betts**



## **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

We are living in strange times. Were it not for the pandemic and the Russian attack upon Ukraine, among other areas of concern in the world, we would probably be much more aware of our Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Jubilee in the Bible refers actually to 50 years in a very specific way in Jewish history. However, the Queen has been on the throne for 70 years, since February 1952! Platinum is the precious metal associated nowadays with a seventy-year anniversary.

Queen Elizabeth II is our longest serving monarch and, while her role is almost entirely constitutional, at the age of 96, she has become a byword for duty. She is loved by the vast majority of the British people, and people in the fifteen Commonwealth countries that acknowledge her as Queen. She is highly respected by even those who are against hereditary monarchy.

A wide range of activities will be taking place across the country to celebrate this achievement, including a 4-day event just across the river in Windsor. This will include a Horse Display, a Military Display,

acting and music. The major events take place over the first weekend in June with a Public holiday on the Friday. The celebrations begin the previous day, Thursday, with Trooping the Colour which will be taking the form of a Birthday Parade.

On Friday there will be a service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral, and on Saturday, the Queen hopes to be at Epsom to watch the Derby horse race, going on to Buckingham Palace for her own party. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June is designated the 'Big Lunch Day' when local communities are being encouraged to have street and community parties. Green Park near Buckingham Palace will no doubt be given over to picnicking, while many organisations and societies take part in a Pageant down The Mall.

The Queen herself has promoted, and taken part in, the national 'Green Canopy' project, encouraging people to plant trees as part of the celebration.

Beacons will be set alight to mark the event across the country and in Commonwealth capital cities.

A major Oxford Street store has set up a Pudding competition. The winning entry will no doubt feature in some of the celebratory meals!

There will be special items on display during July at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

How will you celebrate?

**Tony Randall**

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# Parish Directory

## **St Mary's Church**

**[www.langleymarish.com/stmary](http://www.langleymarish.com/stmary)**

Team Rector: Rev. Chris Ferris 07910 077885 rectoroflangley@gmail.com

Hall Lettings: Simona de Gregorio. tel. 07968 408813

churchcentre@hotmail.com

Parish Administrator: Mrs Dalletta Reed 01753 541042 langleymarish@gmail.com

## **St Francis Church**

Team Rector: Rev. Chris Ferris 07910 077885 rectoroflangley@gmail.com

Rev. Shola Aoko 01753 547025 shola\_aoko@yahoo.co.uk

**[www.langleymarish.com/stfrancis](http://www.langleymarish.com/stfrancis)**

Hall Hire: Mrs Joy Raynor 01753 676011 joyraynor@aol.com

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Bill Birmingham 01753 548646 billbirmingham@gmail.com

## **Christ the Worker Church**

**[www.langleymarish.com/c-t-w/](http://www.langleymarish.com/c-t-w/)**

Rev. Shola Aoko 01753 547025 shola\_aoko@yahoo.co.uk

Hall Lettings: Simona de Gregorio tel. 07968 408813 ctw.langley@gmail.com

## **Holy Family Catholic Church**

**[www.holyfamily.co.uk](http://www.holyfamily.co.uk)**

Parish Priest: Canon Kevin O'Driscoll

Deacon: Rev. Graham Jones

Hall Hire: Mrs Maria Boland

All above contactable at 01753 543770 holyfamilylangley@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Worker: Mr Kieran McKeown 01753 543770 kieranmckeown50@yahoo.co.uk

## **Langley Free Church**

**[www.langleyfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.langleyfreechurch.org.uk)**

Pastor Rev. John Bernard 01753 473219 pastor@langleyfree.org.uk

Hall Hire: 01753 540771 bookings@langleyfree.org.uk

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