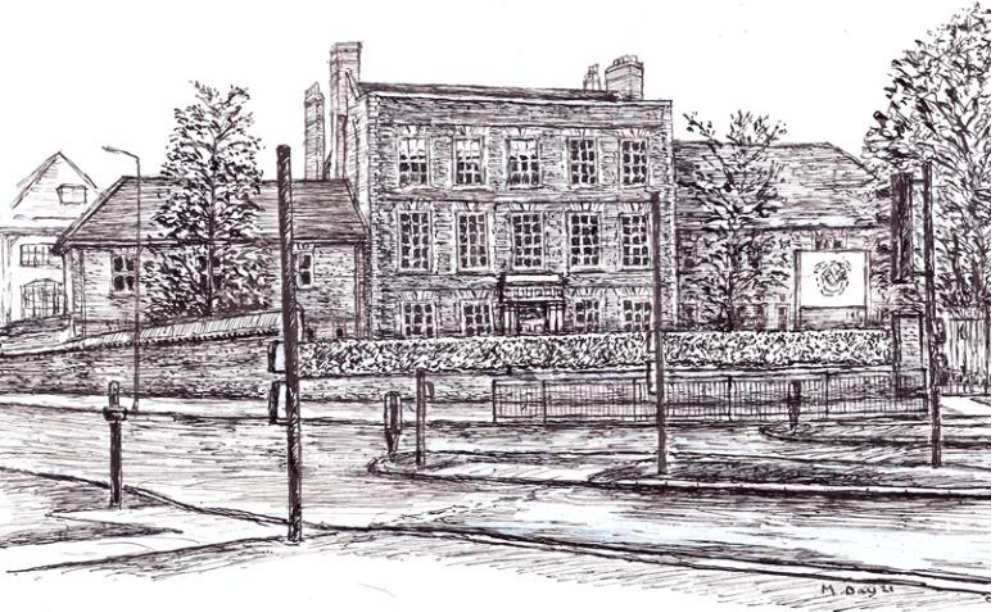


February 2021

Around Langley



Old Langley Hall Building—new setting!

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

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Thank You and Goodbye, Robin!

Around Langley is nearly nine years old now. Rev. Robin Grayson was at its birth, easing it into life. Langley Parish Magazine had existed for decades, but then it was mooted that a new Community Magazine, 'for the people of Langley produced by the churches of Langley', should replace it. That the idea was embraced with enthusiasm by all three churches owes a great deal to Robin's good offices.

Indeed, throughout its life, Robin has chaired the Around Langley editorial team, taking on the duties of calling meetings, keeping notes of the meetings and helping the team review the magazine, in terms of both content and the somewhat precarious finances! He has also been a regular contributor to the magazine as readers will recall, and was conscientious about providing editorial help generally.

We wish him all blessings for a happy and fulfilling life in South Wales. Maybe he will write and tell us about his new life once he's settled in!

Editorial Team, 

'The Hopes and Fears...

... of all the years are met in thee, tonight' says the carol 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'. I have the feeling that the hopes



and fears of all the world are meeting in this month of February. The fears—are we going to catch Covid19 and what happens if we do, are we going to lose loved ones, are we going to have employment as we come out of the pandemic, what happens to the global economy, and the list goes on; and the hopes—that vaccines will be effective, there will be enough vaccines produced for all the people of the world, there will be enough economic growth in the world to sustain its people, our political systems will change to address the huge inequalities laid bare by the pandemic; these are all in everyone's mind as they tiptoe into February. Both the hopes and the fears can be overwhelming and we all look to spiritual resources as we scan the horizon—for an easier summer, if not spring, to come.

We can look to nature to learn about resilience and regeneration. Most of the bulbs that will brighten our spring gardens are still dormant, but not so my all-time favourite, the snowdrops: bury them in snow, freeze them hard, let storms flay them, they still carry on nodding their pearly little heads. Likewise, after forest fires, with just charred remains of mighty trees remaining, experience shows that without any human intervention, seeds sprout and the forest regenerates (in time, of course).

January saw Rev. Sue Lepp installed as the Priest-in-Charge at Hambleden Valley and Rev. Robin Grayson moves to Wales in early February. They will both be missed and the Parish, as well as all the churches of Langley, will now have to move on to a new phase of being. More 'hopes and fears'...

Anna Thomas-Betts

News from Around Langley



**Langley
Neighbourhood
Forum**

Please see their website,
www.langleyforum.org/ for news and updates.

Langley Community Coffee Shop



On 5th January we held a committee meeting on Zoom which was attended by Robin Grayson, Sheila Papali, Linda Dopson, Dorothy Winter, Kathy Branscombe and John Bernard. The meeting was held in place of the AGM and the Chair was handed over by Robin to John Bernard from the Free Church as sadly Robin will be retiring at the end of the month and moving to start a new life in Wales. Also, Dorothy Winter has taken over as Treasurer as Linda and her husband have moved to Reading.

We would like to thank Robin for his marvellous organization of our meetings and for the huge amount of administrative work that he did for LCCS over the years. He was also most helpful in organising Christmas and Easter functions which gave immense

enjoyment to those who attended. We shall be sad to see Robin and his wife Juliet leave us and we wish them well in their new life in Wales. We should also like to thank Linda for her work on the committee and for looking after the finances of the coffee shop. Our new committee is now John Bernard as Chair, Dorothy Winter as Treasurer, and Kathy Branscombe, Linda Dopson and Sheila Papali as committee members.

Sadly, we were not able to have our Christmas lunch at Wexham Park Golf Club because of the Tier 4 Coronavirus restrictions and lockdown. However, the rollout of the vaccines gives us hope and I have now had my first vaccination as no doubt many of you have. God willing, our lives will be back to normal come Summer and community life can return safely.

Sheila Papali

Farewell to Robin and Juliet

As you will know from Rev. Robin Grayson's farewell message in December, he retires from Langley Marish on 31st January and he and Juliet move to their new home in South Wales soon after. He was a most active member of the ecumenical scene in Langley and Tony Randall of the Langley Free Church, with

whom Robin collaborated in various capacities throughout his ministry here, has written the tribute printed below.

In the last issue of *Around Langley* Robin and Juliet Grayson said goodbye to the people in Langley that they would have wanted to have done in a more personal way. Similarly, many of us would have liked to have had the opportunity to say a public farewell and 'thank you' to them for their friendship, fellowship and shared service over the years.

I personally would have wanted to be one of them and, in particular, to thank Robin for the period when I was Elder at Langley Free Church and our late pastor, David Clarkson, was seriously ill. We were subsequently without a minister and I was left holding the reins. Robin provided a warm welcome to me into the fraternal group in such a way that he and other ministers treated me as an equal. He also gave me and the church strong personal support and encouraged others to do the same during the interregnum.

In no small part due to the role he played in Churches Together in Langley, support for sharing the Christian gospel, fellowship and service across the denominations have increased and our relationship grown warmer in the last decade. Because of this, I have personally benefitted and enjoyed the friendship of both Robin and Juliet, and have been able to get to know a much wider group of people.

I wish Robin and Juliet every blessing as

they begin this new phase in their life in South Wales. They won't need me to remind them that there is no retirement in Christian service!

Tony Randall

Liz Jones, a member of the St Mary's congregation has also written a message of fond memories, gratitude and good wishes, printed below.

I first met Robin when he came for medical advice following a DIY accident. We have done lots of practical things together since and fortunately no more accidents!

Mothering Sunday, one of my favourite services, was his first in the Parish and it was a great start. The next day, very sadly one of my bellringing colleagues died in a fire in his mobile home. What a beginning.

Then I discovered his and Juliet's musical talents. St Mary's has long had a musical tradition and they have been such a huge part of the continuation of that. Clerical Error was a barber-shop group Robin formed during his curacy in Beaconsfield. They very kindly came to perform at the first concert in aid of Save the Children, which started a regular annual event, raising thousands of pounds. Robin's permission to use St Mary's has been wonderful; musicians, singers especially, love coming here, for the acoustic and atmosphere.

My husband, Graham, and I did a second Alpha Course at the Vicarage, with

Robin's excellent leadership. It strengthened our faith and set a wonderful example of hospitality and inclusivity. It has been the welcome, love and acceptance of all, which has been most inspiring.

Robin has encouraged me to take more of an active part in worship and run a house group. He has been there when Graham has been ill and helped me through the funeral.

We shall all miss you, and of course Juliet. What a shame this year's music, which was to have been a major part of his farewell events, had to be cancelled because of Covid-19.

Liz Jones

And Farewell ... from Sue

Dear Friends of Langley,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ! Although it is difficult to predict now, by the time you read this I may have left Langley for the rolling hills of the Hambleden Valley where I begin my next season of ministry.

I came to Langley fresh out of theological college in Oxford in July 2016—seems a long time ago now—to serve my curacy. I admit that it was a bit of a culture shock after seven years of living in London and Oxford. The biggest being having a house to live in rather than a tiny flat or a room in college!



Both the parish and the wider Langley community have been an excellent training ground for my future ministry. I have been asked many times 'why can't you stay?!', especially considering Robin's retirement. The short answer is that a Curate (priest-in-training) doesn't stay in the parish where they trained. My position in Langley was always going to be for a limited time. I said in my final sermon to the parish, 'When I started in July 2016, I could not even begin to imagine it ending. Somewhere in the middle I began to think, 'will this ever end?!'; and now as I have come to the end, I can't quite believe it still.'

I am so incredibly grateful for the love, support, kindness and encouragement that I have been shown by the good

people of Langley over the last four and a half years. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you. Trust me when I say that I have learned more from you than you have from me. Langley is indeed a special place and there is much to be proud of.

Some of my highlights have been meeting so many wonderful people, the friendships formed with members of Holy Family, Langley Free Church and Every Nation Slough, volunteering at Slough Mencap, co-chairing the establishment of Lighthouse Langley in 2019, and becoming a Volunteer Chaplain with Thames Valley Police, something I will continue to do going forward.

In the parish I have had the great privilege of leading services, preaching and presiding over Communion in all three churches these last four years. It has been a delight to watch people grow in faith and learn new things. There were of course many weddings and baptisms that are such wonderful celebrations and an honour to participate in. There have also been many funerals and walking with people in their bereavements.

My next season of ministry starts not too far away in the Hambleden Valley Group of Churches, just outside of Marlow in the south and High Wycombe in the north. I will have 5 parishes with 6 churches to tend to over the next 2 years. I am very much looking forward to this new and challenging chapter in my life and theirs.

Again, thank you to all the wonderful people of Langley who have blessed me over these last four plus years. God bless you. Stay safe.

Rev'd Sue Lepp

Purple4Polio

For over 35 years, Rotary club members have been committed to fighting to eradicate polio across the world. The activities of Purple4Polio suggested by Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland are



to raise funds and awareness for *End Polio Now*, Rotary's global campaign to eradicate polio across the world. Children receive their life-saving polio vaccine orally during immunisation. The choice of the colour *purple* symbolises the purple dye painted on a child's finger during mass immunisation days, so it is clear they have already received their polio vaccine.

Rotary's pledge for a polio free world was made in 1985 when there were 125 polio-endemic countries and hundreds of new cases every single day. However, thanks to Rotary, and the support of our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, there are now just two countries still classed as endemic: Pakistan and Afghanistan. But no child anywhere is safe until every child has been fully immunised.



To complete the task, over 2 billion doses of oral polio vaccine still have to be administered, to children in over 50 countries, each and every year. Only if there are zero cases of polio and zero positive environmental samples can the world finally be certified polio free.

In October 2020, a few members and friends of Langley & Iver Rotary Club planted 4,000 crocuses (weighing over 7kg!) in Langley Memorial Park to read 'END POLIO NOW'. Look out for the bulbs flowering this Spring.

Dee Lakhan and David Oliver

Rotary Christmas Collection

On behalf of Langley and Iver Rotary, I would like to thank the residents of Langley and Iver for their fantastic generosity and support during our Annual Christmas Collection. A record sum of over £7,000



was raised, which will benefit several local charities.

We also thank all the volunteer elves who braved the usual winter weather and followed COVID-safe restrictions to accompany Father Christmas as he walked around and saw so many local children.

David Oliver

Church Bells

The church bells of Langley, at the church of St Mary, have been silent for a good part of the past year because bell ringing was expressly forbidden at the time, or else only one bell was allowed to be rung. In the time when we were in Tier 4 and now that we are in lockdown, it has been a pleasure to hear the bells again. This is thanks to the Instone family. Mark Instone, the Captain of the Belltower, who along with his family that forms a bubble with him, has undertaken to ring the bells before the Zoom services begin, and also on some other special occasions. We hope that hearing the bells will be a comfort, and bring a sense of normality to the community.



Did you know that ...

This year is pronounced "2020 WON!"?

For that matter, next year will be "2020 too"?





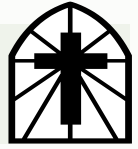
*Were we glad to wave good bye to 2020!
May the poet Tennyson's words be true for us all: **Hope smiles
from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'it will be
happier'**. His poem, in Memoriam, is reprinted here.*

In Memoriam

<i>Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, The flying cloud, the frosty light: The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.</i>	<i>Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes But ring the fuller minstrel in.</i>
<i>Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.</i>	<i>Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the spite; Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good.</i>
<i>Ring out the grief that saps the mind For those that here we see no more; Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all mankind.</i>	<i>Ring out old shapes of foul disease; Ring out the narrowing lust of gold; Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.</i>
<i>Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife; Ring in the nobler modes of life, With sweeter manners, purer laws.</i>	<i>Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand; Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.</i>
<i>Ring out the want, the care, the sin, The faithless coldness of the times;</i>	

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Regular Weekly Service Times



Holy Family (Roman Catholic) (Trelawney Avenue)

We broadcast a Mass over the internet each **Sunday at 10am** and we hope also to broadcast a **Mass on the evening of Ash Wednesday**.

People are welcome to email holyfamilylangley@yahoo.co.uk to ask for an invitation to register.

Langley Free Church (Baptist) (Trelawney Avenue)

All our Sunday services are at 10.30am and currently recorded, the first Sunday of the month being All-Age worship. They are accessible via Youtube search: type in 'Langley free church'; or via our Church website www.langleyfree.org.uk. We hope to be live-streaming shortly.

The Anglican churches of St Mary (St Mary's Road), St Francis of Assisi (London Road) and Christ the Worker (Parlaunt Road) will be closed for regular services during the lockdown and **all services will be by Zoom**.

On Sundays at 11.00am there will be Holy Communion or Morning Worship.

On Weekdays (Mon—Sat) morning prayer is at 8.45am

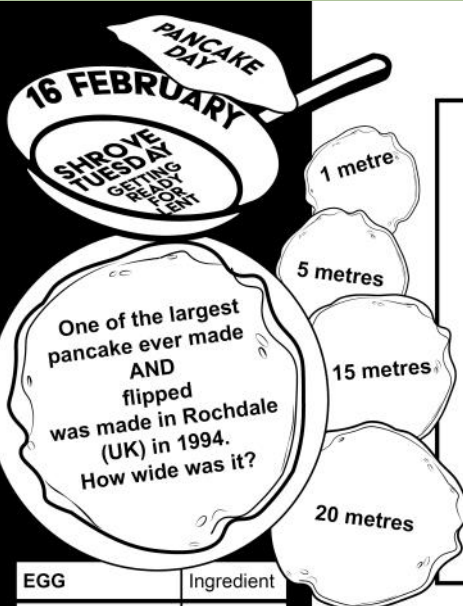
There will also be Zoom Bible Study sessions at 2pm on Wednesdays

Log in details are the same, and are available on <https://www.facebook.com/ParishofLangley/>

All group activities in our churches are suspended until further notice. See also Parish Directory on p. 19 for contact details for churches.

More puzzles for Lockdown ...

(Devised by Angus MacKenzie. Answers on page 16.)



EGG	Ingredient
FAT	Ingredient
FLOUR	Ingredient
MILK	Ingredient
HOT CAKES	American
PIKELET	Australian
NOCKERIN	Austrian
PANCAKES	British
EGG ROLLS	China
CREPES	French
PFANNKUCHEN	German
PALACSINTA	Hungary
BLINTZES	Jewish
LEFSER	Norwegian
BLINI	Russian
PLATTAR	Swedish
CREMPOG	Welsh



The first recorded Pancake Race was in Olney, Buckinghamshire. When was it?

- A 1445** (576 years ago)
- B 1645** (376 years ago)
- C 1845** (176 years ago)
- D 1945** (76 years ago)

Many countries have pancakes of one kind or another. Can you find the following ingredients and listed names?

Can you also find a hidden word or name?

R	L	S	E	P	E	R	C	W	S	R
W	E	P	I	A	S	Q	G	G	E	I
P	F	A	N	N	K	U	C	H	E	N
I	S	L	I	C	E	F	R	O	G	I
K	E	A	L	A	V	L	E	T	G	R
E	R	C	B	K	O	O	M	C	R	E
L	X	S	L	E	R	U	P	A	O	K
E	W	I	F	S	H	R	O	K	L	C
T	M	N	A	Z	S	Z	G	E	L	O
R	A	T	T	A	L	P	I	S	S	N
P	T	A	S	E	Z	T	N	I	L	B

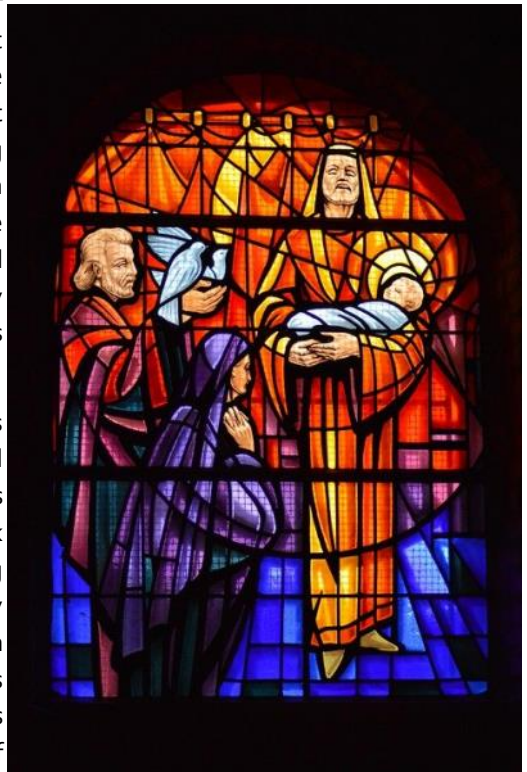
The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, February 2nd

There is December with all its liturgical busy-ness and then the rather quieter month of January with the beautiful Festival of Epiphany on the 6th of January, sadly often thought of as the 'Twelfth Day', or the end of, Christmas. Epiphany, commemorating the arrival of the wise men following the star to Bethlehem, is followed by the month-long season of Epiphanytide, when the theme is light shining in the darkness, starting of course with the star that guided the wise men. It ends with Candlemas, commemorating Jesus being presented to the temple. In the Jewish tradition the ceremony of the purification of the mother and presentation of the infant happened forty days after childbirth, so Candlemas always falls on 2nd February.

The church has been celebrating this occasion, with processions of lighted candles, from the 4th Century. Christians see this as a special opportunity to think of Jesus as light; but this festival, coming near the middle of winter, also probably has connections with earlier pagan traditions. Indeed, although in this country we remove Christmas decorations by the twelfth day of

Christmas, many other Christian countries leave them on till Candlemas, the fortieth day, obviously desirous of prolonging the good cheer for a few more weeks!

In some traditions Mary figures more prominently in the Candlemas celebrations, while in others the presentation of Jesus is more important. Interestingly, Luke's is the only gospel that describes this story. Many Christian traditions have homed in on the encounter between Simeon and baby



Jesus as the crucial message in this story. Simeon's song of thanksgiving—the *Nunc Dimittis*, 'Lord, you now let your servant depart in peace'—is commonly used in night prayers and in funeral services. Simeon was a devout man, and the Spirit had assured him that he would see the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit he was at the temple when Mary and Joseph arrived with Jesus. Apart from the fulfilment of the promise of the Spirit to Simeon, what we are struck by most strongly is its message of salvation for *all* peoples, not just the Jews as earlier prophecies of Messiah might have been interpreted by some of the Jewish people.

In the season of Epiphany, the theme is God's glory shining as a light in our darkness in different circumstances: through the wise men, through the baptism of Jesus by John, his first miracle in Cana and the many references in our Old Testament readings. Interestingly, even in the Old Testament, the universality of God's salvation is already beginning to take shape. Isaiah in particular has several references to 'the light of the nations' and 'the ends of the earth [seeing] the salvation of our God'. In fact Isaiah even acknowledges that God will use an outsider, King Cyrus of Persia, to bring the Jews out of their exile.

There is much less known of Anna, the aged woman who had spent most of her life as a widow living in the temple. Bible Reading Fellowship has a Chaplaincy scheme, named Anna Chaplaincy, where

accredited workers, as part of a local team, minister to elderly people and their carers in many circumstances, from care home settings to lonely people living alone. Maybe, at this Candlemas, we can also reflect on the elderly people in our midst, especially this year when so many people are facing isolation from family and friends.

Anna Thomas-Betts

The Baptism of Jesus

On the Third Sunday in the Epiphany season we remember the Baptism of Jesus. The Orthodox churches celebrate this as a major theme of the season and they identify it as the Epiphany, or manifestation, of the Holy Trinity. The Troparion (a short prayer used by the Greek Orthodox church) for the baptism of Jesus captures the idea beautifully.

*When You, O Lord, were baptized in
the Jordan*

*the worship of the Trinity was made
manifest*

*for the voice of the Father bore
witness to You*

and called You His beloved Son.

*And the Spirit, in the form of a dove,
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.*

*O Christ, our God, You have revealed
Yourself*

*and have enlightened the world, glory
to You!*

"... and lead us not into temptation..."

On the first Sunday in Lent, the gospel reading in church services is about the temptations of Jesus during his 40 days in the desert. Jesus is presented to us as living alone in a desert, fasting and being in communion with his heavenly Father. This closeness to his Heavenly Father all along is shown in what he said and did as he went about inaugurating the Kingdom of God. His close disciples often saw him pray. He would distance himself from them and slip out to a lonely place usually early in the morning. One day they asked him: 'Master, teach us to pray'. So he taught them the 'Our Father'. The prayer was brief but all inclusive: the first three petitions in Matthew (they are slightly different in Mark and Luke) are all for the coming of the Kingdom, the latter four are for human needs. Brief, also because God does not seem to like long-winded prayers, but short ones: frequent, spontaneous and from the heart.

The 'Lord's Prayer', enshrined in the gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke, has always been regarded as the prototype of all prayers without anybody ever questioning the words. It was therefore a big surprise in many Church circles in recent years when Pope Francis publicly said that "lead us not into temptation" was a wrong

translation. For, Pope Francis argued that God does not lead us into temptation. It is Satan who does that. A father does not lead his child into temptation, into danger.

The Pope was actually endorsing what all the Spanish and Portuguese speaking Christians have always been praying, anyway. Their version is: "and stay with us (or do not abandon us) when we are tempted". For some years, the French speaking Roman Catholic bishops too debated this and finally changed the traditional wording, first in the Bible and then in the Missal. And recently the Italian bishops also had this version introduced: '*e non abbandonarci alla tentazione*', which freely translated



means, 'and do not abandon us when we are tempted'. The English-speaking Catholic and Anglican bishops worldwide, no doubt noted the change but do not seem, at least so far, inclined to adopt it.

This reluctance is not just because of possible upset to elderly devout people used to the old words: the fact is, scholars and liturgists don't agree on the correct translation of the original, earliest, Greek text. Indeed, the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out that "the Greek verb used means both 'do not *allow us to enter* into temptation' and 'do not *let us yield* to temptation.'" The text in English is even more problematic in that the traditional version says '*lead us not into temptation*', which is stronger than the two possible translations from the Greek!

Moreover, besides a question of translation, there are other issues worth considering. Firstly, the version in the latest translation in the Revised New Jerusalem Bible says: 'Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the desert to be put to the test by the devil.'(Mt 4:1). This clearly suggests that it was by design that the Spirit put Jesus to the test. It is a temptation that God foresees Jesus will resist. We have examples of this in the Old Testament in the trials of Abraham and in the story of Job. Through temptation God purifies us, makes our faith stronger. The replies of Jesus to the tempter are a model for us to imitate.

Secondly, as humans we are susceptible to temptation and God respects our free will, his gift to us. Temptations come from the devil, the world and our own heart. However, God will never let us be tempted beyond our ability to resist. As the psalmist says, "God will guard your going in and your coming out"(Ps 121). And if we fall and then are sorry, God will always restore our friendship with Him.

Thirdly, In the case of Jesus, the temptation is for his human nature, so we can look to Jesus as a model for us. Other instances in the New Testament of Jesus being tempted, are: the 'get behind me Satan' passage in his reply to Peter (Mt 16:23); 'Father, if it is possible take away this chalice from me', in Gethsemane and then on the cross: 'My God, why have you forsaken me?' Scholars tell us that in his humanity Jesus is portrayed facing temptations that are universal: love of money, power and worldly glory or pride, which pave the way to all other sins.

So where does this leave us? What Jesus actually said in his native language we may never know and Jesus also said and did many things that are not recorded in the Gospels. Besides, there are different versions of words and deeds attributed to Jesus by different evangelists.

About temptation, we are told three things.

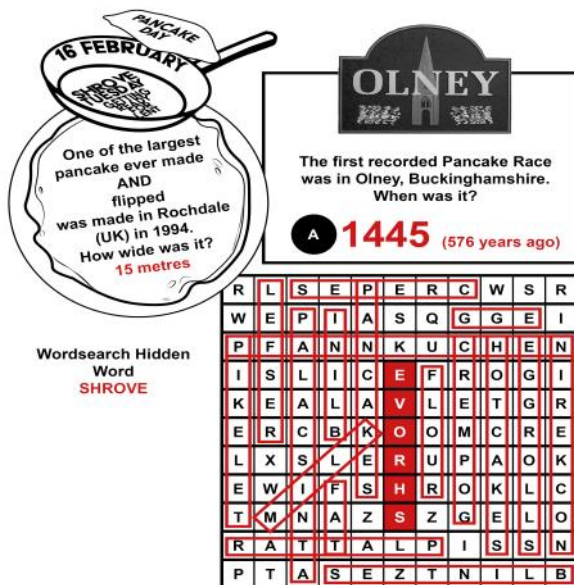
- Firstly that temptation is part of life for all of us.

- Secondly, we need to recognise to resist it. Jesus gives us a helpful tip of temptation for what it is, a test. how to do this: "Stay awake, and pray not to enter into temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak." (Mt 26:41)
- Thirdly, we cannot deal with temptation single handed.

We need God's help to do this. We need to pray both to recognise temptation and

Alfred Agius

Answers to the puzzles on page 11



Need some help around the house?

No job too big or too small – cleaning, shopping, dog walking, garden tidying etc.. Call Kim Webb on 07931 316794.

Would you like to sponsor or support **Around Langley?**

If so, you may like to give £5 a year towards the costs of the magazine. Please make a donation at any of the sponsoring churches.



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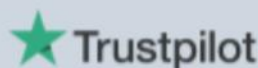
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Parish Directory

St Mary's Church

www.langleymarish.com/stmary

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Churchwarden: Anna Thomas-Betts: 01753 822 013 a.thomasbetts@gmail.com

Hall Lettings: Simona de Gregorio. tel. 07968 408813
churchcentre@hotmail.com

St Francis Church

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/

Rev. Shola Aoko 01753 547025 shola_aoko@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

Holy Family Catholic Church

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

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

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

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