

Around Langley

March 2020



The Chestnuts

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

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Yellow Crocus

At last the arrival of March means that Spring is well and truly on its way with the thought of much more pleasant weather and being able to get out and enjoy the parks and gardens. I love to see the first snowdrops and crocuses so I thought readers would like to read these words on the '**Yellow Crocus**' by Patience Strong, summing up the inspiration the sight of these spring flowers give.



*The first to come- the yellow crocus thrusting boldly up
As if to catch and hold the sunlight in its painted cup.
The first one out to shout a salutation of good cheer,
Making haste to show itself before the rest appear.
For soon will come the other members of the family,
Robed in deepest purple, pale mauve and ivory
And dazzled by their beauty we'll forget to say goodbye
To the first that took the risk and braved the wintry sky.*

Sheila Papali

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New Challenges and Opportunities

So we have had two storms, Ciara and Dennis, in quick succession. Rain in winter is not uncommon, but records of rainfall and flooding have been broken this year, most probably a consequence of global warming. We in Langley are fortunate not to suffer floods, but it should still make us think seriously about climate change. And re-thinking flood defences will be a major challenge for the government.

The short piece on Antarctica helps us appreciate the extent of water locked up as ice there and the dire consequences of the ice sheets melting to any substantial degree. We hope to say more about our Council's plans for the Urban Forest and how Langley might get involved in later issues.

On environmental issues, it is good to see the government taking initiatives such as banning home use of the worst polluting fuels, and planning to phase out petrol and diesel cars. As in many such initiatives, it is the poor people who will find the changes most challenging, so it is important that we keep reminding the government about the need to mitigate the problems of those who can least afford it. It is also pleasing that the churches (see Lent courses, pp 10-11) are trying to respond to the Climate Emergency and raising awareness among congregations.

Brexit happened: at least the withdrawal agreement has been signed, although we still don't know the shape of things to come in the new, independent UK. It is so important now to work together as a country for the common good. And we should not forget that, in the EU or not, we are still the people who have a reputation to be fair-minded and generous. That hasn't changed.

Now that Brexit has happened, time for a little frivolity?

Q: How many vowels in England now? **A:** Only 3; No EU

Q: How much space has Brexit freed up? **A:** 1 GB

Finally, a huge thank you to Tony Randall for standing in for me so ably as editor last month..

Anna Thomas-Betts

News from Around Langley



Langley Neighbourhood Forum

The next meeting of the Langley Neighbourhood Forum will be at 7.00pm on Tuesday 3rd March at Langley Hall Primary Academy (LHPA). The speaker at the Forum will be Chief Inspector Lee Barnham of Thames Valley Police, who will be speaking and answering questions on topical issues relating to the Police and Policing in Langley. Refreshments will be kindly provided by LHPA.

Langley Community Coffee Shop



Our speaker in February was Tony Randall, a member of the Langley Free Church (profiled in *Around Langley*, April 2017), who talked to us about his life and interests. Tony didn't have the privilege of going to university, but instead took his Ordinary and Higher National Certificates at Colleges of Further Education. However, he advanced rapidly in the field of Industrial Engineering and this led him into the management sphere and then teaching. He returned to industry in Human Resources management, and People Development – his passion.

From his younger days onwards he was interested in track, road and cross country running and later in training younger and older people in running and other athletics skills. So thank you Tony, for sharing your life experiences with us. Each of us has their own story to tell, so why not come along and tell us about your life experiences?

On March 10th our speaker will be John Bernard, the Minister of the Langley Free Church. John will talk about his life and his interest in fish.

The Langley Community Coffee Shop is held every week on Tuesdays from 10am until 11.30am in Langley Library. We also hold regular armchair exercises provided by the library staff. If you would like to meet a friendly group of people, or to volunteer once a month to help with providing tea and coffee, we would be very pleased to see you.

Sheila Papali

Langley Litter Pick

In support of the national Keep Britain Tidy campaign (The Great British Spring Clean) on Saturday 21st March there will be a Langley clean up with the meeting point being Langley Memorial Park. The clean up is supported by Langley Neighbourhood Forum and Langley St Mary's Ward Neighbourhood Action Group. Slough Borough Council will provide the equipment (litter pickers,

bags, vests etc) and will arrange for the bags of litter to be collected after the event. The clean up activity will take place between 10.00 and 12.00, though volunteers can help as long or as short as they wish. All Langley residents are encouraged to join with the community groups to take part in the clean up.

Bill Birmingham

Stephen Foster

Stephen Foster, the renowned artist



whose work adorns the Holy Family Church here in Langley died on 15th November 2019.

Stephen's work for churches

around the country began when he was commissioned to carve an image of St. Joseph for Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral. He was a quiet and deeply prayerful man and so at the funeral Bishop O'Toole could remind us that "in all of Stephen's work we see something of Stephen's faith and those things which accompanied him and continued to give him inspiration; his love of nature – stone, wood, colour and texture – literally sing with the transparent beauty of God."

In Holy Family Church, Langley, he carved our magnificent image of the risen, ascended Christ which dominates the



building (see photograph) and also our Stations of the Cross.

Stephen's Requiem Mass took place on 28th November 2019 in the Carmelite Monastery, Ware, in the chapel where he attended Mass each day. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Mark O'Toole, the Bishop of Plymouth and a friend of Stephen's. May he rest in peace.

Fr Kevin O'Driscoll



Orchestral Concert

Caldicott,
Farnham Royal

SL2 3SL

Saturday, 7th March, 7.30pm

Verdi : Nabucco Overture

Rachmaninov: 3rd Piano Concerto

Vaughn Williams: London

Symphony

Box Office: sloughphil.org

Child Development, Play and Sensory Integration

This September saw 600,000+ children start Primary School for the first time. We wish them all well. For most children their school life will be successful and progressively developmental. They will master the alphabet, comprehend the meaning of numbers and control the intricacies of writing so that it is clear and legible. They will be able to play collaboratively with others and make friends that last a lifetime.

For others this time will not be so easy. We are probably aware that not all is well in schooling. Take exclusions: The number of fixed period exclusions across all state-funded primary, secondary and special schools has increased by 8 per cent from 381,900 in 2016/17 to 410,800 in 2017/18. (Dept. of Education Report 25th July 2019)

Concern has been expressed regarding child and adolescent mental health. It begs the question "What can be done?"

As with all complex questions there is no single answer. But there are specific issues we can identify that either help or hinder a child's ability to benefit from school. One I have become aware of in the last few years has been **"Sensory Integration"**.

Sensory Integration refers to the capacity of the child to integrate its senses, *sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch* into *engaging with and comprehending their*

world, the dominant two senses being sight and sound.

It is often thought that the ability to comprehend the world correctly is a natural and linear process that occurs simply through growth from baby to toddler, to child, to adolescent to adult. For most it is. For an unfortunate few this does not happen. They get "stuck" with a brain and body that does not work in harmony. They do not know they are stuck and often give no sign of anything being wrong, apart from finding school torture as they see their friends mastering skills and progressing while they languish at the bottom of the class.

A good way to ensure your child has the best chance of effective Sensory Integration is through exercise and play. Especially exercise and play that require more than just running about. The games need to encourage thought and engagement with external objects e.g. bats and balls. This helps develop hand and eye co-ordination, very important in mastering writing and drawing and appreciation of distance and time. Board games and similar foster visual awareness, prediction and calculation (what number on the dice do I need to get to safety) and introduces awareness of non-verbal communication skills.

Poor Sensory Integration can inhibit a child's ability to comprehend their world of school. It can trigger mental distress when they sense their own failings.

So, make play and games a regular part of your child's life. Alas, hours on a computer console is not necessarily an effective substitute.

Richard Shircore

What Did Beethoven Ever Do For Us?

When I was a student in the early Seventies, some of my friends wore badges that, from a distance, read simply, 'BEETHOVEN'. On closer inspection, in small letters above that, there were the words, 'Help stamp out'. The badges had been made in response to the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in 1770. What had Beethoven done to provoke such a reaction then? And what is his legacy to us now in 2020, as we mark his 250th anniversary?

There is no doubt that Ludwig van Beethoven was a pivotal figure in musical history – music was simply not the same after him, and this was what my friends, keen supporters of the growing 'early music' scene of the time, objected to. The 'rot', as they saw it, had set in with Beethoven, with his grand ideas and large-scale compositions. My problem was that I was (secretly) a huge admirer of Beethoven's music; not to perform, but as a listener, especially to the String Quartets, that I came to know and love as a child.

In Beethoven a new kind of musical figure appears, the lone artist, seeking to express, through the act of composition,



the inmost workings of the human soul. Earlier 'composers' were employed by the church or by wealthy patrons, to provide 'entertainment' to order. Beethoven was himself born into such a semi-feudal context, his father and grandfather being musicians in the service of the Elector of Cologne in Bonn; young Ludwig did follow the family tradition in his early years, but soon left Bonn to head for the musical centre of the time, Vienna, to make his way as an independent pianist and composer.

The idea of being first and foremost a *composer*, of writing music as an act of self-expression, regardless of whether anyone had asked for it, or would pay for it, was quite new. By his death in 1827 Beethoven had composed 9 symphonies, 7 concertos, 2 masses, 1 opera, 16 string quartets, 32 piano sonatas, and innumerable other pieces for large and small forces, the vast majority of which are still core repertoire today.

Though some of Beethoven's themes are familiar to the point of cliché and much plagiarised – think of the 'da-da-da-daah' opening of the 5th Symphony, or the 'Ode to Joy' tune of the 9th – his compositions have a harmonic and structural richness about them that never palls. Professional musicians and amateur listeners alike find them an enduring source of pleasure and inspiration.

The Oxford Companion to Music says of Beethoven: 'More than any other composer he deserves to be called the Shakespeare of music, for he reaches to the height and plumbs the depth of the human spirit as no other composer has done.'

Beethoven was regarded as a 'genius' in his own time, perhaps the first composer to be described in such a way. His contemporaries found much of his later music hard to understand – and even harder to perform! But they recognised that he had brought something new to the world that transcended the arena of mere music-making and spoke deeply to the human spirit. Music may have moved on over the last 250 years, but that judgement still stands today.

(See page 13 for an account of Beethoven's religious beliefs.)

Rev. Robin Grayson

The BODY – a Guide for Occupants (by Bill Bryson)

Many of us came to know Bill Bryson through his rather distinctive travel

books and were then amazed when he wrote *A short history of Nearly Everything* – if it didn't make science totally intelligible to ordinary people like me, it was certainly highly entertaining.

And he has achieved the same success with the *Body – A Guide for Occupants* in 23 information packed chapters, from How to Build a Human to The End. It is not a textbook on human biology or the science or history of medicine, although it does provide a good deal of that. The book covers some detailed knowledge of how our bodies work and how, and who discovered it, with pen pictures of some fascinating people. There are some interesting, and sometimes gruesome, facts, figures and pictures with references, and clear evidence that Bill Bryson did a considerable amount of homework in preparing for this most interesting book.

It is, of course, written in that unique Bryson style. I thoroughly recommend it.

Tony Randall



It's Back!

After last year's successful launch – Lighthouse Langley is back!

August 3-7th, 2020

St Bernard's Grammar School

Registration is now open at www.lighthousecentral.org/get-involved for volunteers.

Children's Registration opens in May. We are hoping to take more children this year – so we need more volunteers, from 13 years of age, no maximum age limit!

Lighthouse provides teenagers with leadership and team-building skills. References can be provided for different

awards schemes, UCAS etc. Our more 'mature' volunteers report that they too learned new skills and made new friends.

For further information please email langley@lighthousecentral.org or call Revd Sue Lepp on 07930520562.

Did you know ...

Antarctica is 200 years old this year

Well, Antarctica is of course as old as the Earth, nearly 5 billion years old. Around 20 million years ago it was part of a joint supercontinent, Gondwanaland, joined with other land masses like Australia, South America and India, which eventually broke up into many parts that drifted away from each other. Antarctica settled at the South Pole around 40 million years ago and became the coldest place on earth.



So why should we be interested? The mean thickness of the ice sheet covering nearly 13 million square kilometres of Antarctica is almost 2 km. That is a heck of a lot of frozen water – over 25 million cubic kilometres. The other comparable ice sheet is on Greenland and covers about a tenth of the area of Antarctica. These two ice masses contain 99% of the world's ice! It is immediately obvious why Antarctica, alongside Greenland, is a significant player in sea level changes due to global warming.

If all the ice covering Antarctica, Greenland, and in mountain glaciers around the world were to melt, sea level would rise about 70 meters, submerging all the coastal cities of world. However, this is not likely to happen suddenly, so the sea level rise due to ice sheets melting will be gradual. However, it has started already, we know, with many small islands being affected: it is estimated that a major islands of the Maldives would be under the sea by 2050 and most of Maldives would be gone by the end of the century. If we continue to put CO₂ into the atmosphere, the sea level change will be inexorable and faster, although the rate at which it will happen is less predictable.

So, why say Antarctica is 200 years old? The seamen of the 18th century knew about a land mass which was referred to as the 'unknown land of the south'. But in January 1820 the Russian explorers, Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen and Mikhail Lazarev became the first to discover Antarctica, although the British explorer, Edward Bransfield, was to sight its northernmost peninsula only three days later!

Anna Thomas-Betts

Regular Weekly Service Times



St Mary's (St Mary's Road)

Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

No Family Worship in March, but All Age Worship on Mothering Sunday, 22nd March

Sunday 11.00am Family Communion (and Sunday Club for children)

Sunday 6.30pm Evening Prayer (usually a said service)

Holy Family (Roman Catholic) (Trelawney Avenue)

Sunday 9.30am 11.15am & 6.30pm Mass

Mon & Tues 9.30am Mass

Wed & Friday 9.30am Service of the Word and Communion

Thursday NO SERVICE

Saturday 5.30pm Mass

Langley Free Church (Baptist) (Trelawney Avenue)

Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship and Sunday School (All Age
Worship on first Sunday)

Second Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

St Francis of Assisi (London Road)

Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday 11.00am All Age Service

Christ the Worker (Parlaunt Road)

1st and 3rd Sundays 11.00am Morning Worship

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays 9.30am Holy Communion

Lent



Our annual period of penitence and preparation for the Holy Week started on Ash Wednesday, at the end of February. There are many resources available online, with various themes, for private and group study and reflection, which we hope people will be using. The churches in Langley have chosen the study guide with the theme Caring for God's Creation (#LiveLent, or www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/lent-2020-church-resources) for the Lent Study Groups. At this time, when we are increasingly concerned about Global Warming and Climate Emergency, this course helps us to think of our responsibility to care for the earth.

Regular Church Activities

St Mary's

Sunday	11.00am	Sunday Club and Crèche in St Mary's Centre
Monday	9.30am	Jellibbeans - Parents and Toddlers Group
Wednesday	2.00pm	Toddlers' Service
3 rd Monday of the month	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
House Groups		Monday evenings & Tuesday afternoons

Holy Family Catholic Church

First Tuesday of the month	1.30pm	Tea Dance with Irish music
Alternate Thursdays	2.00pm	Union of Catholic Mothers

Langley Free Church (Baptist)

Monday	12 noon	Monday Lunch Club
Wednesday	9.00am	Toddler Group
Wednesday	2.00pm	Oasis – fellowship time with various speakers
Thursday	10.30am	Bible Study (House Group)
Thursday	3.15pm	J Team – ages 4 - 11
Thursday	7.30pm	Bible Study at LFC
3 rd Saturday of the month	12 noon	Craft Afternoon
1 st and 3 rd Saturdays	10.00am	ChatCaf

St Francis of Assisi

Friday	9.45am	Mums and Tots (Waiting list: call 01753 548646)
3 rd Thursday of the month	1.30pm	"Refresh" for a chat, talk, cakes and songs

Christ the Worker

Tuesdays	2.00pm	Needles & a Yarn: March 3 rd , 17 th and 31 st
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Anglican Morning Prayer: 8.45am: Mondays and Fridays at St Mary's; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at St Francis, Wednesdays at Christ the Worker.

Lent Study Groups

To join a group, contact Rev Robin Grayson.

Sun 7.30pm 196 Langley Rd	Mon 7.30pm St Mary's Vicarage
Tues 2.30pm St Mary's Vicarage	Wed 10.45am St Francis Church
Thurs 10.30am 47 Langley Rd	Fri 2pm 29 Thames Rd



The God Who Speaks

The Bible is an account of an ongoing conversation between God and human beings, God being the one who starts the conversation and the people, those who listen and respond. It is not easy for us to understand why the whole Bible is called the 'Word of God', when it is in fact a collection of different types of writings, poems, history, letters etc. At the end of each reading from the Bible during a service, the reader ends by proclaiming: "the Word of God" or some similar expression. The reader is telling us that what we are hearing is God speaking to us as we listen. The Bible was written not so much for private study as for public reading. It came into existence as part of the life of a worshipping community. The Bible was made for liturgical use. The printed words in the Bible and their proclamation by the reader during the service are the media between God and the believing listener. To use an illustration we might say that the text pronounced by the reader becomes, so to say, the live wire between the Holy Spirit and the believing listener. Using another simile we might say that the words in the book are rather like the notes of a musical score. The score is not the music. But the score lets the music sound. The theme of the music, no matter what the details of the readings are, are ultimately pointing to the covenant between God and

humanity. The motif (and the link) between these is the God made man – Jesus Christ. All the events described in the scriptures find their culmination in the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is ultimately about this which all the scriptures speak. The account of the experience of the disciples on their way to Emmaus (Lk 24: 13-32) masterfully portrays this. Jesus' explaining the scriptures and the disciples' heart burning within them as Jesus speaks to them is reflected and indeed re-enacted in the liturgy of the Word.

Though the Bible remains the privileged way in which God speaks to us, it cannot be the only way. For God created all human beings and wants them all to be saved. God must therefore have an effective way of making his love and offer of salvation known to each one. We know that human life on earth started much before any Bible existed. In many civilisations and world religions we can detect elements of God's self disclosure. St Justin, in the second Century, speaks of "seeds of the Word" in other religions. Current teaching in all Christian Churches acknowledge this. Yes, God speaks to every person, agnostics and atheists included. How, we do not know.

God also speaks to us using a sign language to give us an inkling of what He is like. In the words of the Bible: "The

heavens declare the glory of God, the vault of heaven proclaims his handiwork” (Ps 19:1). Science and not religion enables us to discover the mindboggling size of the expanding universe and the mysteries of the subatomic world. God placed us in a garden to enjoy its beauty and relish its fruit. God made us into human beings to experience the warmth of companionship, an analogy of the Trinity. How refreshing it is to recall the words of the Irish hymn writer Cecil Frances Alexander, familiar to people all over the world, “All things bright and beautiful”. Is not God telling us here much about His nature, which is beyond words, inviting us to get involved with Him? Please be forewarned: anyone who dares to embark on a life with God will find that God has a lot to say to them. God is a God of surprises.

Alfred Agius

Beethoven's Faith

(See also page 7: What has Beethoven ever done for us?)

A question often asked of Beethoven concerns his religious beliefs. He composed to a number of religious texts, and his settings display an empathy with their emotions. But this was a time when church structures and traditional ways of thinking were increasingly being called into question. Beethoven was sympathetic to the revolutionary (and atheistic) fervour of the French Republic. He dedicated his third symphony, the

Eroica, to Napoleon Bonaparte, until Napoleon declared himself emperor; Beethoven then ripped the front page from his manuscript and scrubbed out Napoleon's name.

Perhaps Beethoven's most iconic work is the 9th Symphony, in particular the setting of Schiller's 'Ode to Joy' in the final movement. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Leonard Bernstein performed the piece changing 'Freude' (Joy) to 'Freiheit' (Freedom) throughout. The music certainly carries that sense of joyous liberation, and a cry of 'freedom' would have resonated with Beethoven's own revolutionary sympathies, expressed most clearly in his one opera, 'Fidelio'. On one occasion I had the privilege of taking the small part of First Prisoner, who sings these words as the Chorus of Prisoners emerge briefly into the sunlight:

*We shall, with all our faith,
Trust in the help of God!*

Hope whispers softly in my ears!

We shall be free, we shall find peace.

Was this perhaps Beethoven's own faith and hope, that human beings should be free to live at peace? His life was one of constant struggle, including poor health, fractious relationships and loss of hearing – the cruellest blow for any musician; but his music still speaks to us today of the enduring power of hope. That, surely, is a legacy worth leaving!

Rev. Robin Grayson

In Conversation with... Fr Kevin O'Driscoll



Father Kevin, congratulations on your seventieth birthday and every blessing for the future.

In fact, this special birthday gives us an opportunity to find out a bit more about you, as a person as well as a much loved Parish priest. Maybe we should start at the very beginning, with a resume of your early life and family.

My parents came to Slough from different parts of Ireland and were a typical working class Irish family. I lived in what you might call “an Irish Catholic cocoon” and it felt beautifully safe and warm. I have a sister and a brother and I am the oldest in the family. We all attended Mass at Our Lady of Peace church in Burnham. I attended St

Anthony's Primary School on Farnham Road and then Burnham Grammar School.

When did you feel called to serve the church as a priest? And what brought you to Langley?

“When did I consider serving the Church as a priest?” is a good question. The priests of the parish were always very impressive and after talking to them I decided to go to a senior seminary to study and to see if I had a vocation to become a priest myself. But there was plenty of time to make my decision! I went to St Mary's Senior Seminary in Birmingham and the training lasted six years. I studied philosophy, theology, scripture, psychology and a few more “ologies”. In the end I felt I was being called to be a priest and (thankfully) the Seminary authorities agreed. I was ordained in my home parish in Burnham in 1974. Since then I have served in a number of parishes (Northampton, Luton, Biggleswade, Milton Keynes) and in 2002 the Bishop appointed me to Holy Family parish here in Langley and I have loved every one of those parishes.

You have a large and flourishing congregation in the Holy Family Church, enormously rich in its diversity. Tell us a little bit about how you manage the expectations of such a big mix of people.

When my parents came to Slough in the 1940s they were looking for three things: employment, a good Catholic education

for myself and my sister and brother and a welcoming, vibrant place to attend Church. I do not have much control over employment, but all these years later people are coming in great numbers to our parish from all parts of the world and I (and those I work with) try very hard to provide what my parents looked for when I was young.

We have four Masses each weekend and we do our best to make them welcoming, elegant and prayerful. We are blessed with many young families from so many different parts of the world and so it is very important that the parish and Holy Family School, which has recently been judged as “outstanding”, work together closely.

I get the feeling that Christian Unity is an ideal close to your heart: certainly ecumenical relationships in Langley have greatly deepened in your time here. Your support for joint projects of the churches in Langley has been much appreciated. Would you say that this is indeed important for you?

Absolutely. I come from what I would call a very “gentle” Catholic background. In my family and in my training I was taught to co-operate with and give respect to people from the other parts of the Christian Church and, indeed, to all people of goodwill. I really do appreciate the warm atmosphere that is to be found between all the churches in Langley and I hope I have contributed to that in some part. And I think your readers will be

pleased to know that all of us ministers in the local churches meet regularly to share lunch, to pray and to plan events. Relationships are very positive.

What aspects of being a Parish priest do you find difficult and what is most rewarding, especially given that the Roman Catholic Church does not allow their priests to marry and have a family life?

Along with all priests I particularly worry that we seem to find it very hard to engage with our young people. I particularly enjoy being of service to people at really important moments in their lives: when they bring their babies for baptism, when they get married and when they need consolation at the death of a family member.

Not getting married or having a family has been a sacrifice for me but it puts me in a particular relationship with my parishioners. They are my family and I can belong to them all equally. Having said that, I am particularly blessed to have a sister and a brother and a whole extended family to whom I am very close.

Thank you very much, Father Kevin, for sharing some insights from your life with us. Many of our readers do belong to churches in Langley and it is interesting, and important in my view, for us to feel that we know our priests. So thank you, for all that you are in Langley. May you be blessed in your continuing ministry here.

Anna Thomas-Betts



Langley Churches Invite you to join them ...

At Langley Free Church

Oasis Fellowship group

We meet on Wednesdays (1.30 for 2.00pm). The programme for March:

- 4th Ann Lanthrop R.O.P.E.
- 11th 120th Anniversary, Elsie Frazer*
- 18th **NO MEETING** (Easter Cracked)
- 25th Tea Sharing & Gift Time

***All are welcome to this special meeting and afternoon tea** when there will be a collection for the House of Grace. If you wish to attend, please contact Ann Portsmouth on 01753 585845 or 07788 812 500 before by 4th March.

CRAFT Afternoon

The next craft afternoon will be on Saturday, 21st March, 12–5pm. Further information from Chris on 07789 838500, or the church on 01753 540771.

The Monday Lunch Club is open to everyone, offering friendly company, and meets every Monday in the church, 12-2.30pm. Purchase lunch for £2 or bring your own. **We have a meal out on 2nd March.** Please note that there will be no meeting on 16th March.

At Christ the Worker Church

Needles & a Yarn

We meet to knit and crochet blankets, baby clothes and toys for local and

international charities. The next meetings will be on Tuesdays, 3rd, 17th and 31st March at 2pm. Contact Maureen Bush on 01753 543465 for further details.

St Mary's

Bereavement Journey Course

Reunion will take place on Sunday 8th March, 4 pm at St Mary's Church Centre.. This will be an opportunity for all who have attended the Bereavement Journey Course over the last year or two to get together and catch up over tea and cake. Anyone who might be interested in joining a future course is also very welcome to attend. Visit www.thebereavementjourney.org/ to find out more.

A Concert in Aid of



Save the Children

St Mary's Church, Langley SL3 7EL

Saturday 28th March 7.30pm

✕ Berkshire Recorder Consort ✕

✕ Iver Singers ✕

Tickets £10 on the door or
from Liz Jones – 07930 310201

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Parish Directory

St Mary's Church

www.langleymarish.com/stmary

Rev. Robin Grayson 01753 542068 r.j.grayson@btinternet.com

Curate: Rev. Sue Lepp 07930 520562 revdsuelepp@gmail.com

Hall Lettings: Mr Graham Jones 07802 784024 st.marys.church.centre@gmail.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: Mr Graham Jones 07802 784024 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

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