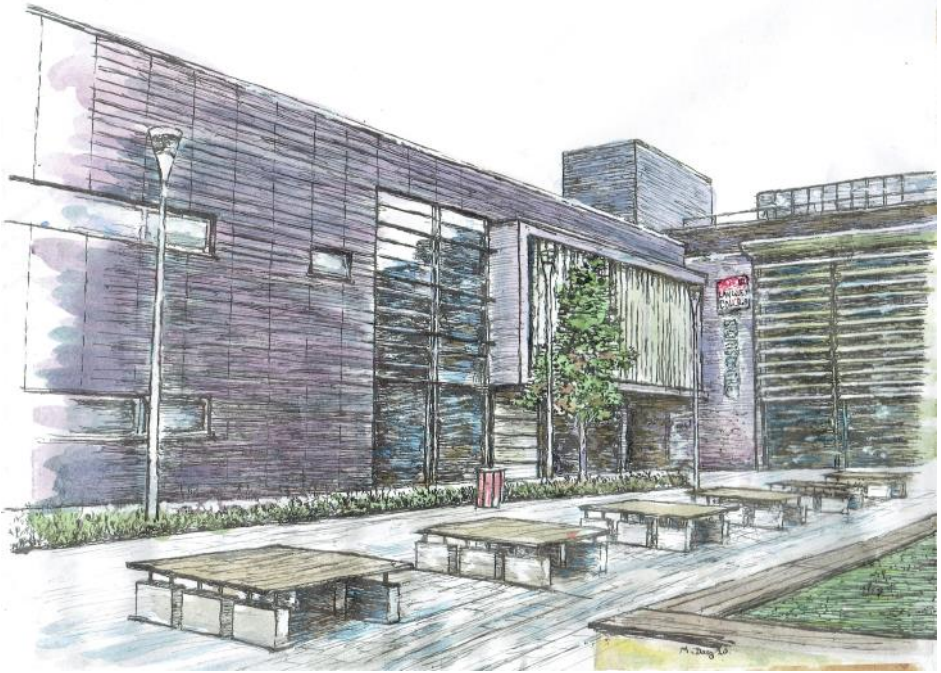


October 2022

Around Langley



Langley College

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

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Editorial Assistance

We urgently need assistance with the production of Around Langley. Please consider whether you would be interested in helping to keep the magazine going. As readers will know, this is a FREE community magazine. Please talk to me to find out how you might help.

Anna Thomas-Betts

01753 822013





Changing Times

What a remarkable month we have had in September. We knew already that we would have a new Prime Minister in early September and a change in Government. But no one was expecting that this would be the month when Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, would die, but much to the surprise of everyone, including the Prime Minister whom she had appointed only a day before, she did.

The moment the Queen died, her heir became king: King Charles III. So the country now has a new King and a new Government. Prince Charles had ruffled a few feathers in the past, by expressing views that were deemed to be political, but in recent years he has won a lot of respect and affection from people, now enhanced by his latest statements recognising the constraints of constitutional responsibilities of a monarch.

The Prime Minister has a free rein for appointing the Cabinet, of course, and the most senior members appointed by Liz Truss seem to be all people who are her close supporters. Maybe she is being pragmatic as she wishes to push ahead with her controversial economic policies, but it is difficult to see how it will help unite the Conservative Party or heal the country.

Moving on to the world scene, the invasion of Ukraine by Russia is making major changes to the way we, especially in Europe, look at global power balances. An obvious example is that of our dependence on gas and oil from Russia, but it goes beyond that and is more fundamental. After Mao Zedong's era in China, and with Mikhail Gorbachev opening up Russia, the world scene looked as if we were heading for a less confrontational and more open period of international relationships. What we now realise is that we need to learn how to live with major autocratic powers with blatant disregard for human rights (e.g. in the treatment of Uighur people in China, and by brutal war crimes in Ukraine). This is increasingly difficult in our interdependent world.

Looking on the positive, we have had some rain at last and the grass is green all around!

Anna Thomas-Betts

News from Around Langley

Langley Neighbourhood Forum



The next open meeting of Langley Neighbourhood Forum is on

Tuesday 11th October 7pm

At Langley Hall Primary Academy
Station Road

The Community Development Officer
of, Slough Borough Council,

Rebecca Curley, will speak on

IMPACT of INFLATION

(See also page 7)

Langley Community Coffee Shop



Well, this is a year for change, and it has all happened in the last month: with a new Prime Minister, the death of our dearly beloved Queen and the accession to the throne of King Charles III. We wish King Charles and Liz Truss all the best as they take on their monumental tasks.

The Queen met adversity and change in her life, and with courage and faith prevailed through everything over 70 years; she was a shining example of how to endure. At the moment people are facing hardship particularly because of the energy crisis. But the loss of a much

loved monarch also reminds us of the death of our own loved ones. I always love the poem which was read at one of her Christmas messages.

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown,' and he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way'. So I went forth and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."

I gave this poem mounted in a frame to my father one Christmas as his health was failing and many times I have looked to it for encouragement. So I hope the coffee shop offers friendship and encouragement to any of you who are suffering difficult times. We meet every Tuesday in St Joseph's Hall at the back of The Holy Family Catholic Church between 10am and 11.30am. All are welcome.

Our activities include half an hour of armchair exercises, a monthly talk and an annual Christmas lunch, as well as an annual coach outing. Our talk for October will be 'The Food Bank' on October 18th (speaker yet to be confirmed).

Sheila Papali

A tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

This magazine is printed after the period of mourning for our late Queen Elizabeth and you may, like me, have been astounded by the sheer extent and depth of the grief expressed by so many people, as well as recognition of her life and long reign.

I was at school when she became Queen and can remember exactly where I was, outside my classroom. Some readers may be shocked to learn that the immediate discussion was as to whether we would soon have a day off school! I am sure that, at least later in life, she would have found that understandable and amusing.

The role of a constitutional monarch is a difficult one, especially when it is played out over 70 years, during which major changes occur in society, at home and around the world. Queen Elizabeth seems to have fulfilled it exceptionally well, as witnessed by the large number of people from all sections of society in Britain, and around the world, who paid tribute to her. This even from people who are not noted for their commitment to a monarchical society.

I met the late Queen once and, although not introduced, have a T shirt to prove it! The event was the opening of a sports facility in which I assisted in organising some very young children to run a relay for the Queen to watch. As always, she



showed great interest in how they performed. And she did actually arrive and depart by helicopter.

The Queen was noted for her commitment to duty, hard work, and showing a genuine interest in those involved in the many very different events and activities she visited. Even into old age she kept up a relentless timetable of functions at home and abroad, some of which must have become a drag. Whether as host or guest there was always a warm smile and an interest displayed.

Many have commented on her strong Christian faith which upheld her and provided an example to others. She was an outstanding lady who will be greatly missed by the nation.

Tony Randall

Floral Tribute

by the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage

***Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,
Limes and oaks in their last green flush,
pearled in September mist.***

***I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,
Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.
A promise made and kept for life - that was your gift -
Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,
Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.
The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,
Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.***

***Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.
Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower
Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained
Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence
A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day
Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and
Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,
This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness
Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.***

Simon Armitage told Today, the BBC radio programme, that he wanted to write a poem for the late Queen, using her favourite flower, the lily of the valley, as a metaphor, 'outside of the language and commentaries we've already heard'.

He has also chosen the acrostic style for his tribute, where the first letters of the lines of the poem together make up a word. The two verses of his tribute have the first letters of the lines spelling ELIZABETH ('a beautiful name') twice.

Support from SBC

The Community Support Officer (Rebecca Curley) from Slough Borough Council would like to make people aware of some of the support programmes they are putting in place to help people who might find themselves in need at present. She writes:

A **cost-of-living resource pack** is available on the council website with information on support with household bills, saving energy in your home, how to get support for food, clothing and furniture and other useful contact details to support residents during at this difficult time. The resource pack can be downloaded here: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/benefits-support/cost-living>. Or please do email me at rebecca.curley@slough.gov.uk or call me on 07523 936077 and I can send you the details.

Is there a way we can improve **your health and wellbeing** and make the neighbourhood stronger and healthier? I am working on an action plan for Langley as part of the Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhood programme but I need your views and ideas. Please complete the survey here <https://forms.office.com/r/VEhriojitch> or if you would like help to complete the form please email me at rebecca.curley@slough.gov.uk or call me on 07523 936077.

A community advice surgery will be held on Saturday, October 8 from 1-4pm at Foxborough Primary School, Common Road, Langley. This will be a chance to talk to representatives from organisations such as Slough Borough Council, Thames Valley Police, Solutions 4 Health who can provide health check-ups, MIND mental health charity, Slough Hub and employment schemes.

Rebecca Curley

Needles and a Yarn



This is a group that meets at Christ the Worker Church Hall once a fortnight on Tuesdays, 2—4pm. They have knitted innumerable items for charity over the past few years, which are often given to organisations, for example, helping with premature babies. Their knitted toys are also most popular at events like the Carnival and church fayres.

More importantly, it is a place where people get together, have tea and natter, 'have a yarn', enjoying each other's company and making friends. Currently there are a few vacancies in the group. They next meet on 4th October. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact: Maureen Bush on 01753 543 465.

John Donne

'No man is an island' – is one of those oft-quoted sayings. Not many people know, or maybe care about, what follows on in John Donne's poem. The first two lines of this poem, one of the 'Devotions upon Emergent Occasions', are 'No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main'. The 450th anniversary of John Donne's birth is celebrated this year.

John Donne lived in interesting, and possibly dangerous, times, in the First Elizabethan era. In those turbulent times, characterised by reformation in Europe and the creation of the Church of England in this country, Donne was born into a Roman Catholic family that staunchly remained Roman Catholic after the English reformation. His mother was a greatniece of Sir Thomas More.

John Donne spent three years in Oxford as an undergraduate and a further three years in Cambridge University, but notably did not receive a degree from either University because at that time one had to take an Oath of Supremacy (that is, of allegiance to the monarch as the 'Supreme Governor of the Church of England') to be able to graduate, or hold responsible positions. He went on then to become a lawyer.



During and after his student days, he is said to have squandered his inheritance on women, literature, pastimes and travel. He fought against the Spanish and on his return, at the age of 25, was appointed to be chief secretary to the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, Sir Thomas Egerton. However, his secret marriage to

Egerton's niece was against the wishes of her family and resulted in his imprisonment. He was soon released but it took several years before there was a reconciliation with his father-in-law and he could receive a dowry.

The death of his brother of bubonic plague, after being imprisoned in Newgate prison for harbouring a Roman Catholic priest, made him question his Roman Catholic faith, and he eventually became active as an anti-Catholic. He had no intention of being ordained, wishing rather to be reinstated to the court of King James, but he was persuaded to take holy order instead by the King! After serving as a priest in England and Germany, he was appointed Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in 1620 and remained there for over ten years.

Just three years after arriving at St Paul's, one of his daughters died at the age of 18, and he himself became severely ill. It was during his convalescence that he wrote

his collection of works, 'Devotions upon Emergent Occasions', mainly reflections on pain, loss, grief and love. 'No man is an island' appears in that collection. Ernest Hemingway chose another phrase from that same poem* as the title of one of his novels, For Whom the Bell Tolls. The phrase comes from the last line: 'And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.'

There is a monument in Westminster Abbey for the Very Rev. John Donne: poet, soldier, theologian, preacher and scholar.

Anna Thomas-Betts

***The poem in full:**

No man is an island, Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.

If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
As well as if a promontory were,
As well as if a manor of thy friend's
Or of thine own were.

Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind,
And therefore never send to know for
whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.

ugly / PRETTY

*I am very ugly
So don't try to convince me that
I am a very beautiful person
Because at the end of the day
I hate myself in every single way
And I am not going to lie to myself by saying
There is beauty inside of me that matters
So rest assured that I will remind myself
That I am a worthless, terrible person
And nothing you say will make me believe
I still deserve love
Because no matter what
I am not good enough to be loved
And I am in no position to believe that
Beauty does exist within me
Because whenever I look in the mirror I always think
Am I as ugly as people say?*

(Now read from bottom up...)

Abdullah Shoaib

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. Communion will be as pre-Covid with no restrictions.

2 nd October	All age service
9 th October	Communion service
16 th October	Sunday School Prize Giving service

All other Sundays in October will be Ordinary Sundays.

The Anglican Churches

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

**All Souls Service: Sunday 30th October, 6.30pm,
St Mary the Virgin Church (See also p.16)**

Regular Church Activities at Langley Free Church

'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. 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.

NB On October 3rd, we have a Macmillan Coffee morning.

Oasis at Langley Free

Wednesdays from 1.30 to 3.30pm

A time of worship and speakers, with refreshments, and occasional meals out. In October we shall meet on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. The programme is yet to be finalised.

Everyone welcome.

Contact: Ann Portsmouth
01753 585845

Small Groups

There are two small group meetings weekly: one in the morning at a home, and the other at 7.30pm in the church. The sessions are based on Biblical text or characters or the Christian perspective on contemporary issues. All are welcome. Email secretary@langleyfree.org.uk or phone the church number 01753 540771

Chatcaf coffee morning @ LFC



The first and third Saturdays of the month (1st and 15th October) 10am-12noon.

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



Craft Afternoons 2022 at LFC 12—4pm

Bring your hobby along and join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month, that is 15th October.. Over a cup of tea and cake, some knit or sew, others crochet/make cards or jewellery. You don't

have to bring anything with you, as you can just come along for the company. Pop along anytime between 12 and 4pm, to Langley Free Church, 100 Trelawney Ave, Langley, SL3 8RW, and if you need more info, please contact Chris on 07789838500.

.(Suggested donation £2, towards refreshments)



Saint Francis of Assisi

Travelling into Slough on the London Road from Junction 5 of M4, on your left at the junction with Trelawney Avenue, you cannot miss the blue signboard saying, "Church of St Francis of Assisi". This Anglican Church dedicated to a saint who lived in the 13th century, is a modest building, not much higher than the houses around, with a simple interior. While the building is functional, and indeed multi-functional, it has no special architectural or other artistic merit. It is, however, in a strategic place and, in its simplicity, is a witness to how, I would dare to think, St Francis, and indeed Jesus himself, would like it to be. It highlights a core value of the Church Jesus founded – a poor church.

Throughout history, God sends us models of Jesus' life on earth. I cannot think of a better example than that of St Francis of Assisi, who draws the admiration of people across Faiths and cultures, over many centuries. In his life three qualities stand out:

(a) being able to recognise the natural environment as a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone;



(b) having the right attitude towards material possessions, that of a detachment sometimes called spiritual poverty (Mt 5:3) with some people, like Francis, going the extra mile by embracing actual poverty; and

(c) loving everyone, friends as well as enemies.

St Francis' love for nature is immortalised in his *Cantico del Sole* (hymn to the sun). Each creature has a role in God's plan. No creature is self-sufficient. We are all called to be at the service of each other.

St Francis' conversion started when, looking for meaning in life while praying

in the semi-dilapidated church of San Damiano in Tuscany, he heard the voice of Jesus calling him. "Francis, repair my church". As Bernardone, Francis' father, was a very rich wool and cloth merchant, he was able to take some of his stock to try to raise money for the repair of San Damiano church. He was thwarted in his attempt by the priest at the church and in frustration threw all the money away. This enraged his father and he was subsequently estranged from his father.

It was only then that he came to understand that Jesus was not talking about the church building he was praying in, but that it was a call to reform the universal Church, to despoil it of its craving for wealth and power and to make it like Jesus himself, poor and humble.

So Francis started transforming his life and that of his many followers, into a life of actual poverty and humility. His followers were men, but soon his close friend and soul-mate Clare, also from a privileged family, wishing to follow Francis' example led women into a similar calling of poverty. Thus was founded the order of nuns that came to be called the Order of Poor Clares.

Francis never wanted to be ordained a priest as, in those days, priestly ordination presumably brought with it some riches and power. Francis wanted to be poor like Jesus who "did not have [a place] where to lay his head" (Mt 6:20). Having discovered the beauty of nature, and leading a poor lifestyle modelled on

that of Jesus, Francis was led to understand that the experience of peace was at the heart of being a Christian. As St Paul succinctly put it: "Christ Himself is our peace" (Eph 2:14-22).

Francis later famously made a memorable gesture of promoting peace among warring factions when, going against the prevailing stance at the time, he showed a peaceful attitude towards Muslims.

It was in 1219, when the Crusaders were trying to retake Jerusalem from Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil that Francis as a poor friar accompanied the crusaders facing the Islamic army. He broke ranks and started walking unarmed, alone towards the enemy, something everybody thought was a major folly.

We do not know what went on between the Sultan and Francis. What we do know is that Francis, to everyone's surprise, was well received by the Sultan, and Francis returned, by all accounts, at peace with himself and with the Sultan.

At the time nobody saw any benefit in this bizarre gesture. But succeeding generations saw in Francis' gesture the model of peaceful dialogue in the midst of conflict.

In our times we are blessed by God with a Church leader, Pope Francis, whom many see as a sort of St Francis redivivus, one who promotes the three values that characterised St Francis: care for creation, a preferential love for the poor and the promotion of peace.

It is also fascinating to see how Franciscan values have been interpreted in different times and by different people. But that deserves more consideration—another time.

Alfred Agius

The Lectionary

Readers will remember Jesus returning to Nazareth during his public ministry and being given the scroll to read on the Sabbath day, at worship in the synagogue. Continuous reading of the Torah was a regular feature of worship for the Jews and probably dates back to the time of Moses. Singing of psalms regularly was also part of the Sabbath worship in the Jewish tradition. The continuous readings took one to three years to complete and were interrupted only for special, feast, days.

So much of early Christian worship was based on Jewish traditions, and the practice of reading both Jewish (Old Testament, OT) and Christian Scriptures became accepted by Jewish and Gentile Christians from very early days. Indeed, it is thought that the new Testament, especially the epistles were meant to be read out after the OT reading. This sequence was followed at Eucharistic services from at least the 2nd Century

Before the Second Vatican Council (~1965) Scripture readings at Mass were on a yearly cycle for Roman Catholics. The Book of Common Prayer also has readings specified for each



The Lectern
at St Mary the
Virgin Church,
Langley

Sunday of the year. Since the late 60s, Catholics moved on to a three-year cycle of readings for Sunday Mass, with four readings each Sunday— from the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles and the Gospels—being prescribed.

Many Protestant and reformed churches saw the merits of the three-year cycle of the Roman Catholic Lectionary and so the 'Consultation on Common Texts' produced the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). Now the majority of Christians in the world probably follow RCL every Sunday, although some variations have been introduced by individual churches for special reasons important to them.

The three years of the RCL cycle are often referred to as Years A, B and C, with Matthew, Mark and Luke being the dominant Gospels in them respectively, . (Daily Worship also has set readings, usually two, as well as Psalms.) The

continuous readings tend to come in the long periods of Ordinary Time, after Trinity Sunday, for example.

In case you are wondering ‘what about John’s Gospel’, it is read widely—more of it in fact than Luke’s— especially during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

I find that the liturgical seasons and the lectionary are a blessing for church and church life. They are also a gift from the church to us, an effective way of teaching and encouraging discipleship. We are following the ancient Jewish tradition, of course, by trying to cover virtually all of the Scriptures in the cycle of readings—in our case a cycle lasting three years. We go through most of the Gospels, using special times such as Advent and Epiphany and Lent to study

the stories about Jesus’ life, and concentrating on the teachings and sayings of Jesus during Ordinary times

The way RCL is structured helps us to be rooted in the ways of God: from his early interactions with his chosen people, the gift of his son to us ‘in the fulness of time’ and how the early Church Fathers made sense of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

While rejoicing in the gift of liturgical seasons and what the Lectionary brings us week by week, we should perhaps be aware of one danger: that is, of familiarity breeding complacency. To guard against that, we need to do our part, constantly reflecting deeply on the readings to find fresh insights.

Anna Thomas-Betts

A Prayer for the Nation

(Written by Bishop Andrew Lancelot

during the reign of Elizabeth I which we could pray for our nation and King now)

*O King of the nations unto the ends of the earth, strengthen all the common-
wealths of the world as thine institution, albeit the ordinance of man.*

*Scatter, O Lord, the peoples that make for war; and deliver this island, and
the countries wherein we sojourn, from all tribulation, peril and necessity.*

Remember our [Queen] and give [her] prosperity in all things.

*Grant unto them that are eminent in station to be eminent for virtue and for
fear for thee; to the Parliament thy holy prudence; to our powerful men to
have no power against the truth, but for the truth.*

*Grant to our people to be subject unto rule not only for wrath but also for
conscience’s sake; and thy peace and love bestow upon us all, O Lord our God.*

FOOTCARE BY KARA

Dip. MCFHP MAFHP

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died, will take place on Sunday
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Mary the Virgin. Everyone is
welcome to come. There will be
an opportunity to light a candle,
to receive prayer and blessing
and to remember loved ones who
have died.*



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Come and listen to a talk by Julian Hunt,
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**“Sir John Kedermister and his Library
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at St Mary the Virgin Church on

Sunday 2nd October at 2.30pm.

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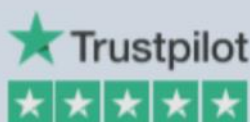
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Parish Directory

St Mary's Church

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

Acting Parish Administrator: Angus Mackenzie 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

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www.langleymarish.com/c-t-w/

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Hall Lettings: Barbara Soko .07894 535522 christtheworker.langley@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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