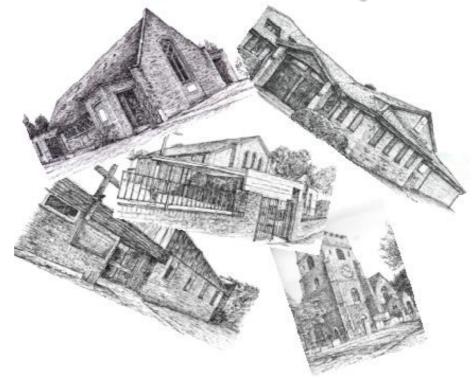
# Around Langley



The Churches of Langley: St Francis, Langley Free, Holy Family, Christ the Worker, St Mary the Virgin

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

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15<sup>th</sup> of May (to be confirmed)

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www.langleymarish.com /around-langley

### Front Cover illustrations Michael Day - 01753 512519

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### Update on Around Langley

I regret to say, as mentioned last month, that this issue is the last *Around Langley* in its current style—that is, as a monthly magazine produced ten times a year. Since we have not been able as yet to identify anyone to edit and produce it, we have to reconsider how we proceed.

The church leaders have not yet decided on a way of communicating with Langley residents, but the exploration is continuing. In the meanwhile, some of us were concerned that this should not be an abrupt total break and we are hoping to continue the magazine in some form in the future.

The current thoughts are that we should aim for a bimonthly magazine, with shared responsibilities for editing, and see how we manage. Tony Randall and I will start off sharing the job of editor between us and hope that the bimonthly magazines will start appearing in June.

We hope that our advertisers will continue to support us, as also our kind readers, who have made generous donations to *Around Langley* in the past. In the meanwhile, we would very much value your contributions and views.

**Anna Thomas-Betts** 

# Going into Hibernation

For so many millions of people, the world is a very dark place at present; if only they could all go into hibernation and wake up in a metaphorical springtime! Instead, people have to struggle on—in Ukraine, and Turkey and Syria, not to mention people in our own country wondering how to cope with the rising costs of necessities like food, housing and heating. It is unimaginable for me that one could lose everything, even every family member, literally overnight, without any warning whatever.

On a brighter note, the season of spring is here, with various bulbs poking through in succession in gardens and parks. Not for the first time I include in the editorial a picture of snowdrops. I just love them for their simple elegance and beauty, and their resilience, whatever the weather.



The nation will also be celebrating the life of Sir Christopher Wren this month as he died 300 years ago on 8<sup>th</sup> March. We have him to thank for some of the great architectural treasures in London, mainly the 52 churches rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1666. The greatest of them is St Paul's Cathedral still standing as a monument to him, having survived the bombing raids of World War II.

So, on to another hibernation. After 11 years of life, Around Langley is also going into hibernation. Those of us who are passionate about a Community Magazine for Langley would like to hope that this will be for it a matter of only hibernation, and not demise!

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed in different ways to the magazine over the years. It has been a privilege to edit and produce it the last seven years but now I just say *au revoir* and wish all our readers good luck and happiness in the future.

Anna Thomas-Betts

# **News from Around Langley**

# Langley Neighbourhood Forum



Community Coffee Shop

Langley



As reported last month, at the AGM the closure of the organisation due to falling attendance was considered but it was decided that the Forum should continue to exist on the grounds that enormous changes are likely in our neighbourhood on account of Slough Borough Council's poor state of finances and their record of poor performance. LNF would Forum where provide Langley residents could raise their voice collectively as the changes come in.

it was agreed that an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Forum would be held with the purpose of

amending the constitution allowing Public Forums to be called when important matters of interest arise.

The EGM is on Tuesday 28th in Langley Hall Academy at 7pm. If you are reading this online, you can view the changes proposed as below.

Please click here to view original Constitution;

Please click here to view **Revised Constitution** 

ΑII Langley residents welcome to attend.

Liz Jones

The winter months are rolling by and we are now in March, looking forward to warmer days. Our group continues to grow and it is not unusual now to see 24+ people on a Tuesday morning.

Our exercise session has also gone from strength to strength with older people realizing how important it is to keep our body parts moving. The exercises are mainly seated, helping to stretch our muscles and using the ball to help with resistance and muscle control while moving to the tunes from the sixties and seventies.



Our talk this month will be on 21<sup>st</sup> March. We are hoping for someone from the Stroke Association to speak to us, but this is **yet to be confirmed**.

Our meetings take place every Tuesday from 10am until 11.30am at St. Joseph's Hall at the rear of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Trelawney Avenue opposite the library, SL3 7UD. Everyone is welcome, so don't stay at home feeling lonely!

Once again the coffee shop community would like to thank the Rev. John Bernard for being our Chairperson and our prayers are with him as he takes up his new post in Coventry.

Sheila Papali

# Pastor John Bernard Leaving Langley

After nearly five years of ministry as the Minister of Langley Free church, and involvement in the wider community, my wife and I are moving to Coventry at the end of March to become the pastor of a Baptist church there. It has been a real privilege to live and work in Langley. I have enjoyed working with the Churches Together in Langley which is made up of the Holy Families Catholic Church as well as St. Francis, St. Mary and Christ the Worker Anglican churches. For the past two years I have been the chairman of the Langley Community Coffee Shop Committee, which now meets at the Holy Families Catholic Church, using Joseph's Hall on a Tuesday at 10.30am.

I have also attended Langley Neighbourhood Forum meetings which has had speakers addressing local issues.

Cloda and I would like to wish you all the best for 2023 and beyond.

# Council Elections – 4th May

Slough Borough Council has announced that this year there will be elections for all Council seats. The number of wards has now been increased from 18 to 21 and each ward can elect two Councillors. Confirmation of Voter Registration will start at the end of May and every household will be asked to check that eligible voters are registered. Readers may be aware that this time there are new voter ID requirements at the polling stations.

With all that has gone wrong with our Council in the past few years, and with all the cuts in services that we are facing now—down to dimming of street lights—there is every incentive for us to make sure that we have Councillors who are responsible and accountable, who can be trusted to put the interests of the people of Langley as their first priority. The names of candidates are not known yet, but please exercise your democratic right and vote, when 4<sup>th</sup> May arrives!

More information, including on the voter ID requirements can be found at <a href="https://www.slough.gov.uk/voting-elections">www.slough.gov.uk/voting-elections</a>

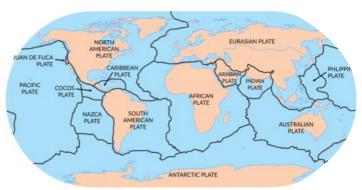
# Earthquakes— Hand of God?

The devastation caused in Turkey and northern Syria by recent earthquakes continue to dominate our news, and our thoughts inevitably go to the people who have died or been rendered homeless.

There are various ludicrous rumours spreading as well: it is all the work of the Western powers; it is God's punishment; it is the effect of climate change and so forth. So it is worth reminding ourselves how and why earthquakes occur.

It is all to do with Plate Tectonics, first validated in the Sixties. However, even in the Sixteenth century, it had been observed that the east coast of South America and the west coast of Africa looked as if they could fit together if placed adjacent to each other. So the hypothesis that the land masses of the current continents once formed one single structure started to be developed.

The theory is that when the single continent broke up around 600 million years ago, the earth's crust became large 'plates' of solid crust that slide around continually on a fluid mantle. Various identified: large plates have been Antarctic, African. Eurasian. North South American, American. Pacific, and Indo-Australian.



The major Tectonic Plates

The plate movements produce several effects at the plate boundaries.. The most well known and dramatic of these are earthquakes and volcanoes. It is easy to imagine what happens: consider two thin pieces of wafer placed on some jelly. If you bring the wafers together, what is likely to happen is that either one will climb over the other, or they might both crumble. When tectonic plates collide similar things happen: but when it is the earth's crust that crumbles, slide against each other, or when one goes under the other, destruction of the crust take place and we notice it as earthquakes. The close correlation of plate boundaries and the sites of earthquakes and volcanoes may be seen in the two maps shown. If the plates are moving apart, the space created will be filled by the material of the mantle, called magma, and in that process volcanoes crop up.

A fascinating, animated video of earthquakes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century can be watched at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists\_of\_21st-century\_earthquakes

In fact. plate movements produce mountain ranges as well: for example, the African plate pushing against the Eurasian plate and the Indian plate giving rise to the Alps and the Himalayas, respectively. In all this we are dealing with slow movements of just centimetres/ year, but over 'geological timescales'millions of years. So the plates may butt each other against without movement for long periods, thus building up large stresses. Then when those stresses are suddenly released, it causes a violent event—an earthquake.

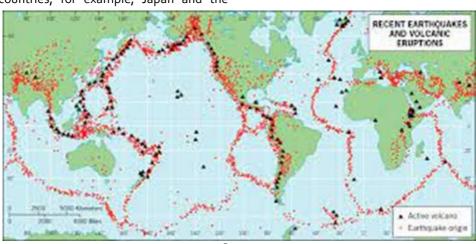
The amazing thing is that we have known about earthquake zones for a very long time. For decades there has been research into the prediction and prevention of earthquakes, but accurate prediction of where and when they happen has eluded seismologists. What we do have is the technology to build earthquake-resistant buildings. Even among the rubble of the recent Turkish earthquake you see the occasional building that is undamaged. Many rich countries, for example, Japan and the

USA with its San Andreas fault in California, have building regulations that ensure that, in the event of an earthquake, casualties are minimal.

So 'Hand of God'? Of course, those who believe in God as the creator of the universe will see that the Earth is just behaving according to the laws that have been ordained by the creator. Or put more simply, the planet is just obeying the laws of nature.

But God's Hand of destruction? The destruction of life and property is almost preventable, or can be drastically reduced, through human ingenuity, even if we choose to build in earthquake zones. It is only human greed that still allows catastrophic destruction to take place: unscrupulous people, both in business and governments who cut costs at the expense of safety, and the inequitable distribution of wealth in the world, condemning the poor people of the world to unsuitable accommodation.

### Anna Thomas-Betts



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## Another puzzle from Angus MacKenzie

How many names of SPRING FLOWERS can you find?

# WORDSEARCH

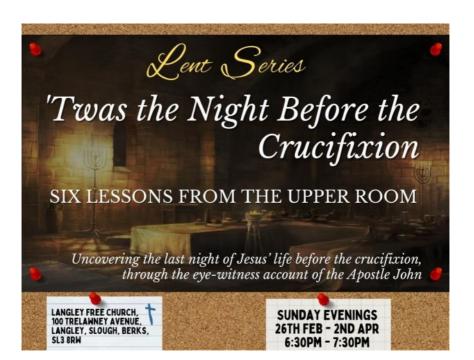


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# Regular Weekly Service Times



### 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.

5<sup>th</sup> March All age service

12<sup>th</sup> March Communion service 19<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday

26<sup>th</sup> March Pastor John's last Sunday in Langley

On Sundays in Lent (26<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> April): Lent Series at LFC, 6.30 to 7.30pm

### 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 Sundays11am Service of the Word on First, Third and Fifth Sundays

### St Francis of Assisi (London Road)

All Sunday Services start at 9.30am (unless specified otherwise)

Holy Communion on First, Second and Third Sundays

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

Fifth Sunday, no fixed format

## 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 11.00am and 2.00pm. **NB Not on 20<sup>th</sup> March.** Come for an hour or two, or stay 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.

### 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 March:

1<sup>st</sup> John Bernard

8<sup>th</sup> Meal Out

15<sup>th</sup> Tea & Sharing

22<sup>nd</sup> NO meeting: Easter Cracked

29<sup>th</sup> People who help us

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 7.3opm in the church. The sessions are based on Biblical text or characters or the Christian perspective on contemporary issues. All are welcome. Email <a href="mailto:secretary@langleyfree.org.uk">secretary@langleyfree.org.uk</a> or phone the church number 01753 540771

# Chatcaf coffee morning @ LFC

The first and third Saturdays of the month (4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March) 10am-12noon.



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



### Craft Afternoons 2023 at LFC 12—4pm

Bring your hobby along and join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, that is 18<sup>th</sup> March this month.. 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, SL<sub>3</sub> 8RW, and if you need more info, please contact Chris on 07789 838 500.

.(Suggested donation £2 towards refreshments)



### **Faith Matters**

# Let Your Light Shine

I think that the stepping down of Anna Thomas-Betts as editor of Around Langley—a great loss for all its readers—and the search for the way forward by the leaders of the churches in Langley, are timely opportunities for us Christians to reflect on our Christian identity and to keep in mind the role we are called to play in the wider community. It is our baptism that marks us as Christians. Baptism is a covenant each one of us has made with God. Baptism freed us from the power of original sin and all possible personal sins. It also united us with Jesus Christ and with each other. Together, we are the Church, the people of God, the body of Christ, of which Jesus is the Head. The Church is one and the same everywhere, and in all situations, although, because of circumstances, it may not always operate in the same way. The differences we see within the Church do not flow from its inner nature and mission but from the circumstances in which we find ourselves in the world.

A second century Church Father, Tertullian noted that Romans who were mostly non-Christians at the time, would observe the fast-growing numbers of Christians and exclaim, "See how they love each other!". On reading this I thought to myself: would the non-Christian communities around Langley say the same of us Christians today? I wish they do.

The Church is on a mission. mission is not a new religion but it is one that Jesus commands his apostles to proclaim: that the promises made by YHWH, his Father, through prophets, had been realised in Him. He was the promised Messiah. It was God himself becoming a human being, dying and rising from the dead inviting all to accept his self-gift to them. words of another second century Church Father, Clement of Alexandria: "God became man, so that man might become God". Jesus' claim was so revolutionary, so mind boggling: the extent of God's love for us is beyond understanding.

It was after Pentecost that the Church progressively became aware that Jesus is Himself God. The writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give us a flavour of the maturing faith of the first Christian communities, the growing awareness that Jesus was the promised Messiah, indeed a king, though his Kingdom was not of this world. It was God himself becoming a human being while remaining God. The Acts of the Apostles by Luke tells us about the role of Peter and of Paul announcing the Good News from Jerusalem to Rome ending abruptly in about 65 AD with their being martyred by the Roman Emperor Nero. We know very little about the other apostles' witness in different parts of the world.

The mission of the Church, of each individual Christian, is to witness to the



wonderful things God has done for each one of us, for the whole of humanity. The word 'martyr' in Greek means 'witness' and in the Christian context, to be witness unto death. To become a disciple of Jesus is to accept everything that the Lord asks of us. The cost of discipleship is high. Jesus asks everything of us as he did of the rich young man ( Mk 0:20). In return he offers us the true life, the happiness for which we were created. What he gives us is one hundred times of what we give to him plus eternal life. Sure enough, the option for Jesus puts us on a collision course with the 'world'. Like Jesus we will be persecuted. The astounding thing that the Bible tells us is that when this happens we must rejoice: "Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven" (Mt 5:12).

The mission that Christ gave his church, to evangelise, needs to be seen in the context of the human family. For those who believe that Christ is "the way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:6), Baptism is the only way to God and salvation. But what about the rest of humanity before, during and after Christ? God created the human race and "wants all to be saved"(1Tim 2:4). Many religions have sprung up worldwide before, during and after Christianity. Many people have rejected Christianity for whatever reason. Many

do not see the need of a religion at all. What can a Christian make out of all this? It is important that Christians keep in mind that their mission is to evangelise to proclaim the good news of i.e. salvation and to witness to their faith by the way they live not by the number of converts. The Christian is like the Sower in the gospel, the leaven in the dough. It is to be the salt of the earth not the earth itself, the light on the mountain not the mountain itself. Our mission is to make that light on the mountain shine and not to put it under a bushel. As to how non-Christians can be saved, the Church may not put an arbitrary limit to the Spirit of God. The Spirit blows where it wills. God has no favourites. The Church serves the Spirit, not the other way round. It is good to ponder on the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary: "nothing is impossible to God" (Lk 1:38). God's ways are not our God's call for us is to be his witnesses. So, let our light shine!

# Alfred Agius

# The Saints Go Marchin' in ... in March!

My apology if you have a birthday, or special event, in March, but at first sight it is not known as a very eventful month. However, a quick google search revealed that it contains two Patron Saints days, two days dedicated to women, a week on Shakespeare (which also contains a day to celebrate separately Poetry and Early Music), and a number of other special days. These include days to celebrate Books, and others for Tolkien, Barbie

Dolls, Pi ( $\pi$ , for mathematicians), a day to be grateful for Water, a WWF day to think about the Earth, and ending on  $31^{st}$  with a 'wear a hat day' to remember those with brain tumours. Added to that, there is now Red Nose Day on  $17^{th}$  and the  $29^{th}$  is treated by some as Piano Day as it is the  $88^{th}$  day of the year which corresponds to the number of keys on a standard piano. And finally, in the month which we regard as the start of Spring, Summer time begins on  $26^{th}$ .

In many churches, and in other places, women will be presented with daffodils on Mothers' Day (19<sup>th</sup>). While mindful of risking a label of sexism, this is to recognise their contribution to society in general and family life in particular.

So, a much more eventful, and sometimes quirkier, month than first appears. But what of those Patron Saints? They might both have been Welsh men!

David, whose day is celebrated on the  $\mathbf{1}^{\text{st}}$ , certainly was. Born the grandson of



the king of Ceridigion (in the county in west Wales that now bears that name again, but was for many years Cardiganshire) at the start of the 6<sup>th</sup> Century, David became a preacher and teacher who helped establish a number of Christian communities based on monastic principles throughout Wales and the South West of England. He was canonised by the Pope in 1123.

Patrick is of course the patron saint of Ireland and lived just over 100 years before David. He was born Maewyn Succat on the British mainland, quite possibly in Wales, the son of a Roman-British soldier and Christian leader. He was captured by pirates as a boy and became a slave in Ireland, where he served as a shepherd, before escaping gtom slavery and returning to his family a few years later.

He trained in Britain before going to Ireland as a missionary where he established Christianity in a number of places and changed his name to Patrick. Patrick is credited with being the first Bishop of Armagh, if not of all Ireland. He used the shamrock as a visual aid to describe the triune Godhead.

Patrick and David are patron saints, but what is a saint?

Clearly we recognise certain people as saints, such as David and Patrick, and others whose names are used for churches and some organisations. Most of these are considered to have lived



particularly holy lives and will have been canonised, that is, formally declared Saints by the Roman Catholic church.

But in the New Testament the Greek word for saints, *hagios*, is used over 200 times to refer to Christians, often in the churches to which the letters (epistles) are sent. Groups of people in Acts were also referred to by this word which means holy or set apart as well as saint. To Christians this is both a blessing and a serious challenge. It recognises that having responded to the call of Jesus, we are accepted by God as holy people but with the expectation that we live out our lives reflecting that calling.

### Tony Randall

## William Bird

Anyone who has ever sung in a (traditional) church choir is likely to have sung some much beloved and glorious anthems composed by William Byrd. He was considered to be among the greatest composers of Renaissance music as well as being a well known keyboard plyer in his life time. He died on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1623 and as we mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death this year,

we shall probably hear more of his wonderful music celebrated in special events and broadcasts. Look out for them in the coming weeks!

His 80 years of life spanned one of the most turbulent times of British history and will bring to mind the Elizabethan era, reformation and the religious and political struggles of that period. Byrd was a devout lifelong Roman Catholic who would have found it difficult to remain one at a time when refusal to attend Anglican services was against the law, punishable by fines, property confiscations and even imprisonment. Indeed, some of his friends were accused of treasonable activities, but his own loyalty to the government never came into question.

William Byrd was born into a rich, musical family. He was probably a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, and the Chapel Royal, where he was a pupil of another giant in church music, Thomas Tallis. Tallis kept him on as his assistant and later as the organist at Chapel Royal. Byrd's first professional appointment was as the organist and choirmaster at Lincoln Cathedral, but the tensions between the near-puritanical Cathedral and Byrd's musical exuberance meant that his stay there was only a few years long and he returned to London in 1572.

Tallis and Byrd remained close associates throughout. They found favour with the Queen at the time, Elizabeth I, who although a Protestant, was a moderate



one with some fondness for ritual, as well as being a great lover of music. She granted them a monopoly on the printing of sheet music and lined music paper, which lasted 21 years. An early example of a patent for printing books.

Byrd is credited with raising the English keyboard to great prominence and also influencing the achievements of other wellknown church musicians like his pupil Thomas Morley, Orlando Gibbons, Henry Purcell and Thomas Tomkins.

Although a devout Catholic, Byrd did contribute significantly to Anglican church music in quality, although limited in quantity compared to the rest of his enormous musical output, comprising three Masses (probably written during the reign of James I, an easier time for Catholics in England), 'psalms, sonnets and songs', madrigals, keyboard music of the Fitzwilliam Virginal and so forth.

The Tallis-Byrd duo, both staunch Catholics, managed to write and publish

three volumes of Cantiones Sacrae, which were offered not as part of liturgy, but for 'private devotional use'. This was clever as it meant that the theological precepts of the Cantiones did not come under scrutiny of the Protestant hierarchy. The first volume had 34 Latin motets dedicated to the Queen and were consistent with Anglican doctrine. However, by the time the latter two were published, Byrd appears to have

concentrated more on themes of persecution; they dwell on Israel's exile in Babylon or Egypt: drawing parallels with the persecution of Catholics going on at that time. They wee dedicated to his friends who were prominent Catholics.

Considering the enormous challenges and danger to life and property faced by *Christians* persecuting *Christians* during the time of Reformation, we have so much to be grateful for: that composers like Tallis and Byrd created wonderful church music acceptable to the Church of England at that time, and also that their music generally found favour with the Sovereign and survived to this day. The era of Elizabeth II has certainly been one when Christians did learn to live and work together in relative harmony.

### Anna Thomas-Betts

You may be interested to know that many of my past contributions to *Around Langley* may be found at <a href="https://www.annathomasbetts.com/my-blog">https://www.annathomasbetts.com/my-blog</a>

### **FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL STONEMASONS**



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# Langley Carnival

Langley Carnival will take place on Langley Memorial Ground

# on Saturday 8th July at from 12noon to 4.30pm

The beneficiaries this year will be decided in March.

Basil and Crew mobile farm and Cookie the clown are returning with the help of Shanly Homes Foundation

If you would like to book a stall, to raise money for your own group, contact Liz Barnett on 01753 539024 for a form.

# Dee S Clark



B.Sc(Hons) MChs Dip.pod.med.

Member of The Society of Chiropodist und

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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

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

### 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: Barbara Soko 07894 535 522 christtheworker@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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