

August & September 2023

Around Langley



Boats in the Grand Union Canal, Langley

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

Contents

General

Editorial	Page 3
Langley News - Coffee Shop	Page 4
WE know what YOU want	Page 5
We Love Langley	
Aaron's story	Page 6
Judy's Story	Page 7
Marian's Story	Page 7
Shamrocks/Christ the Worker—	
Friendship Club	Page 8
Sing for Life	Page 9
Regular services and activities—	Pages 10/11

Faith Matters

Peace	Page 12
Longview: God's Time and Ours	Page 14
You's and Kids	Page 15
Story of Ruth (with activity)	Page 16
Word Search	Page 18
Church Directory	Page 20

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Holiday at Home

**Langley Free Church,
9th to 11th August 2023,
10am— 3.30pm**

*Come and enjoy good
company, games, puzzles,
entertainment ...*

*There will be a charge of
£5 per day to cover lunch
and other refreshments.*

**For more information,
contact Bill Birmingham:
01753 548646 or email
billbirmingham@gmail.com**

Then it was Summer...

So here we are with the second issue of Around Langley in the new scheme of production. As I write this the local schools have just closed for summer holidays and when the next issue comes out, schools would have been back nearly a month. We hope that everyone engaged in educational institutions will have a pleasant and refreshing holiday.

Around Langley has in the past couple of years highlighted the effects of global warming and climate change. This summer has seen another warning about how this works out. Although we in this country have not had a summer of sweltering heat, our neighbours in Southern Europe are suffering hugely from the effects of record high temperatures and wildfires, while other parts of the world are seeing major floods as well as forest fires. The need for action is now for the near- and medium- term, no longer the long-term. Several eco commentators have bemoaned the fact that UK seems to be slipping down from its lead position in tackling climate emergency. This is an issue that needs action transcending party politics.

You will see in this issue a throwback to the theme of the last issue—wellbeing. This piece is about singing for the health of your whole being, body, mind and spirit! Time to consider joining a choir?

As statisticians analyse the 2021 Census figures, what was apparent in an intuitive way to us, the residents of Langley, is being demonstrated numerically: Slough has the youngest and most religious populations (that is, by religious affiliation stated on the Census form) in the country. I have lived in Langley 57 years and love being here, as countless people do, not least because of its wonderful diversity. In this issue you will see the



journeys of three different people described by them—young and old, newcomers and old-stagers. If you have a story to tell, do get in touch with me.

Hope you have a lovely summer!

Anna Thomas-Betts

News from Around Langley

Langley Community Coffee Shop



We had an active programme in May, June and July with interesting guest speakers. The speaker from HSBC talked to us in May about the techniques scammers use. Beware of emails or phone calls purporting to be from banks, he said, and warned us never to give out personal financial details such as the sort code and account numbers of your bank account over the phone. End the call, and phone your own bank separately if in doubt. Banks never phone you asking for personal details.

In June Peter Dopson showed us a video from the Stroke Association which emphasized the message FAST- F stands for Facial drooping, A is for arm weakness, S is for speech being slurred and T is for time—dial 999 immediately.

At the end of June, we had a most enjoyable trip to historical Stratford-upon-Avon where there were lots to see, quaint pubs to eat in and pleasant boat cruises to enjoy. So even though the day was overcast and cool there was plenty to do and see. Amazingly we also had a smooth coach trip with very little traffic holdup

In May the committee held a Health and Safety review, and as a result we now have an insurance policy covering visitors to the coffee shop and also for unexpected emergencies on coach trips when on visits. We have also displayed a Health and Safety Protocol in St Joseph's Hall near the kitchen.

At the end of the year, as we approach the summer break, it is appropriate to thank people who have served us well in the past year: John Bernard for being our Chairperson for two years after Robin Grayson retired in 2020; Sam for providing the hugely enjoyable armchair exercises this year; Peter Dobson who has been an invaluable support as Treasurer; and, of course, all the committee members and volunteers who make our meetings possible. Chris Ferris from St Mary's Church will take over as Chair in September.

Following our Summer break, we reconvene on 6th September. We shall continue to meet on Tuesdays, 10 to 11.30am, in St Joseph's Hall at the back of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Trelawney Avenue, SL3 7UD. So if you need company or would like to volunteer please come and join us on any Tuesday. Wishing you all an enjoyable and safe holiday.

Sheila Papali

WE know what YOU want!

The Perils of Being over 55

There comes a time in every body's life when they realise, they are on someone's marketing list. What I find amusing is exactly what they think I want as reflected in the "offers" made. Being the wrong side of 55 has flagged me as clearly being in God's waiting room and in need of serious help in getting through the day and life in general. The fact that I am blessed with coming from a good gene pool, rarely smoked and like physical activities has meant I am not quite ready for the help the marketing folk think I need.

Judging from advertising and marketing bump I receive, this is the thumbnail vision of me that marketers have. Are you like me?

Marketeers seem to believe

I hate and detest children. Otherwise, why keep trying to get me to take holidays in places where "no children allowed". As if being "child free" was some great boon? The bump continues: Fellow holiday makers are all over 50+! In reality I quite like children around. They are full of energy, and see the world through fresh eyes. They get excited about new el like being with older people exclusively.

I like being with older people Another company prides itself in only catering for older people – cruises, coach trips and short breaks. My only experience of this

type of holiday proved salutary. Thirty-five of us went out but only thirty-four returned. Moreover, the only conversations I heard were of holiday makers out bidding one another as to their illnesses and disabilities. Overheard was this gem, "My surgeon said he had never seen one SO BIG". Sorry but not my idea of scintillating conversation.

I am Immobile. Marketeers have this view that after a certain age we are all moribund and need help with walking any distance, getting out of a chair, bath etc. I also receive an endless stream of literature on stair lifts, and if you want to be one up on stair lifts then, "Don't have a stairlift, have a real lift!" Now, if you want something like a Star Trek tele-transporter in your living room, fine, but I don't need that yet. thank you.

How about a mobility scooter– a real "must have" for anyone over 55 as you must find walking difficult? After all at your age you must find all movement difficult?

I dread being a burden to children and family when I die. The latest marketing bump I received was for an eco-coffin for ease of cremation, made out of cardboard or something else environmentally friendly. It read like something out of a waste disposal catalogue. Then there are the pre-paid funeral plans where the emphasis is on simplicity and speed. A sort of Amazon Prime approach to the final journey. The literature seems to scream, "Here today? - you can be gone tomorrow"!

Sorry, but I want a proper send off, the full works. Curiously there seem to be no “plans” for this type of final journey. No marketing bumph saying, “You will get an RAF fly past as your coffin (teak) emerges from the church followed by a 50-strong procession of paid mourners wailing and gnashing, with Minute guns firing on your way to the crematorium!” Now that would be something worth paying for.

Richard Shircore

We Love Langley

Three residents of Langley tell us how they came to make their lives in Langley. Their stories are widely different: no surprise, as Langley now hosts a wide variety of cultures, faiths and ethnicities. Have you a story you would like to tell about your journey to Langley—whatever your cultural or religious background? If so, please get in touch with the editor (contact details page 2).

Aaron's Story

Hello, everyone! My name is Aaron and my wife's name is Mary. I am thrilled to have recently moved to Langley with my two wonderful boys. Today, I want to introduce myself and share the reasons behind my decision. Originally hailing from India, Tamil Nadu state, our native language is Tamil, a classical language. I have always been passionate about Computers, Cricket, Ping Pong, etc. Throughout my life, I have had the privilege of pursuing a career in Computers, which has allowed me to

grow both personally and professionally .

The allure of Langley enticed me to embark on this exciting journey. Firstly, the town offers exceptional opportunities in terms of educational institutions cultural experiences, and history. But there were two factors that truly influenced my decision and made my transition even more remarkable. We moved to Langley in September 2020.

One significant aspect was the unwavering kindness and support we received from my Parish Priest, Fr Kevin (Holy Family Catholic Church). Upon my arrival during peak Covid time, Fr Kevin extended a warm welcome and provided guidance, not only in matters of faith. His compassion and assistance in helping me connect with the local community and understand the customs and traditions here have been commendable. Fr Kevin has made a profound impact on my transition to life here, and I am incredibly grateful for his presence in our life.

Another appealing element of my new location is the proximity to the majestic Windsor Castle. It is a true privilege to live in the vicinity of such a historically significant and breath-taking landmark. Being able to explore the rich history and immerse myself in the enchanting surroundings of Windsor Castle has been an incredible experience. It adds an extra layer of beauty and cultural significance to my new home. We love going for walks along the Long Walk at Windsor Castle whenever we get time.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you a glimpse into my journey. I'm

excited to continue exploring this new chapter of my life and creating meaningful connections along the way.

Judy's story

My name is Judy Brady and I want to share with you the story of my epic journey which started in Barbados and eventually terminated in Langley, Berkshire. I am inviting you to accompany me as I retrace and relive that itinerary.

I spent the first 18 years of my life on that beautiful Caribbean Island in the West Indies. As far back as I can remember I had a burning desire for travel which grew from my great love of History and Geography. What better place to fulfil that dream and make it a reality than to relocate to the UK, the 'Mother country'? In 1968 I arrived at Burnham, Bucks, where my nursing career commenced. I stayed in a magnificent nursing residence in Taplow, near Burnham Beeches. After qualifying as a State Registered Nurse, I moved to Slough and spent many years working at Wexham Park Hospital.

Although I enjoyed life in Slough, the wanderlust for new pastures kicked in. I moved with my family to Colnbrook, where my children settled into the local schools and I commuted to Wexham Park Hospital to work. After 16 years, a friend who lived in Langley persuaded me that I should move here. I carried out a thorough research and, a year after my daughter came to Langley College to study, we moved here. That was in 1986

and I have never regretted the decision to make Langley my "Final Destination".

It has beautiful parks that satisfy my love of the great outdoors. It is still a safe place to be. There is good access to medical facilities. Local transport is excellent, with a train link to other areas. There is a good sense of community spirit, drawing the diversity of its Churches together. My love for Langley has remained as strong as it was thirty-five years ago.

Thank you for joining me on my odyssey. Mission accomplished.

Marian's Story

The reason I moved to Slough could be summed up in one word, love. I was born in Port Talbot South Wales, a ten-minute walk from the lovely Aberavon beach. I was the eldest of five children and we lived with our parents in a cul-de-sac of twenty houses. It was a close-knit community where everyone's doors were open from morning to night, a wonderful place to grow up in.

Four days after my 18th birthday, in 1958, I met the person who was to change my life forever: Michael was on holiday with a group of his friends from Slough, making their way back from the beach, while my friends and I were on the way to the beach, when we met. That is how our story began. Over the next few days Michael and I spent every minute together that we could, before he left for home. Over the next two and a half years we kept the postal workers busy and met up one weekend a month,

taking it in turns to make the commute between Port Talbot and Slough, until we got married and moved in with Michael's parents.

Leaving my loving family, friends, and a job I loved, to move away was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. Life in Slough was completely different: everything was so quiet, Michael was an only child, and people closed their doors. I felt like an outcast and homesickness quickly set in. I hated my first job at the Cutex factory, but then went to work in an office at Johnson and Johnson, where I happily stayed until the birth of our daughter Sharon.

1965 saw us being allocated a brand new flat in Langley. We had to think hard

before moving, uprooting our daughter from a house with a large garden to a twelve-story block of flats! Living in a high rise can make you feel isolated, but not being a person who can sit back and do nothing, I joined forces with some others and started organising events to get people out of the confines of their flat. I did this with different volunteers for over forty-eight years, finally retiring three years ago.

I lost the love of my life three days before our forty-eighth wedding anniversary, and our beautiful daughter five years later, but their legacy lives on in my wonderful grandchildren and great grandchildren. I also have a lovely neighbour who has lived across the hall

Shamrocks and Christ the Worker Church

Shamrocks has been a local community pub in Parlaunt Road for the last 15 years while Christ the Worker church has been the local Anglican church there since 1955. As we are increasingly aware, many people in our community are lonely, depressed and vulnerable, especially with an ageing population. Lack of adequate resources in the Council and the NHS only make the situation worse for them.

Recognising this, and hearing their stories, the pub and the church have started a new initiative: to offer a place of friendship and support, and to improve their health and wellbeing, by setting up Coffee mornings in the pub, to be known as the Shamrocks Friendship Club.

Meetings are held every Monday, 10am – 12noon, when people can meet for coffee and raise any concerns they may have with experienced volunteers. We expect also to have guest speakers fortnightly – including doctors, dentist, local businesses, yoga teachers etc. We also aim to provide access to a pool of vetted tradespeople to assist with the DIY needs if required. **Everyone is invited to come along!**



from me for the last fifty- four years. So I have had a blessed life. I give thanks to the Lord every day that I made the right move.

Sing for Life!

It is a well-known fact, but often ignored, that singing is 'good for you'. Those of us who sing in a choir, or other folk, jazz or community groups, derive huge pleasure simply by singing, without consciously considering the health benefits of it.

However, in the last decade or more, our Health Trusts have shown an increasing awareness that singing could help people with a range of long-term health challenges, including those for whom medical treatment options are limited, for instance dementia, chronic respiratory illness, Parkinson's, and those suffering from mental illness. You may also recall Health Trusts establishing online choirs during the pandemic and lockdown periods. The Alzheimer's Society have been regularly using community singing as therapeutic sessions for a long time

The good news is that already 2.8 million Britons are now members of a choir of some kind. It is good news because the benefits of singing for wellbeing are manifold: psychologically, physically, socially and so forth.

Physiologically, group-singing improves posture, and as an aerobic activity, raises oxygen levels in the blood and increases lung health. Indeed it has been used to benefit people suffering from Covid.

There is mounting evidence that singing releases endorphins, serotonin and dopamine—the 'happy' chemicals that boost your mood and make you feel good about yourself, improving mental health and self-confidence. Even singing along to a favourite tune and humming long notes can help.

Singing in a group, such as a choir for a decent period of time affects our bodies chemically in another way. After each choir practice, the body experiences a rise in immune system proteins and a fall in stress hormones, which means that you'll be better at fighting off illnesses.

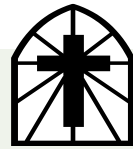
Singing helps memory! It clearly evokes memories, bringing a spark of joy even to people with dementia. But more importantly, singing brings great beneficial effects to brain health as it engages many areas of the brain: mental alertness, memory, concentration, and focusing on multiple things at once.

Sociologically, group singing not only helps forge social bonds, but those who sing in choirs will testify how much of a community spirit develops within the choir very quickly.

The International Centre for Community Music, with the Royal College of Music and Singing for Health Network are undertaking research into the value of group singing for human wellbeing. The hope is to bridge research and practice. Their website asks, will doctors soon be prescribing 'two songs a day, to be taken morning and evening'?

Anna Thomas-Betts

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.

Now that the church is without a minister, services will continue to be led by members of the congregation. Speakers will be drawn from within the church and from outside, including representatives of Christian charities and missionary organisations.

Communion will be taken on the second Sunday in the month,
13th August and 10th September.

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)

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 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.

NB No meeting on 7th or 28th September.

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

NB No OASIS meetings in August

The programme will recommence on 6th September

Contact: Ann Portsmouth 01753 585845

Messy Church

There will be a Messy Church at Langley Free Church



on 24th September, including a meal, 4 to 6pm

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

Toddlers

Meetings recommence on Wednesday, 13th September



Craft Afternoons 2023 at LFC 12–4pm

Bring your hobby along and join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month, that is 19th August and 16th September. 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 07789 838 500.

.(Suggested donation £2 towards refreshments)





Faith Matters

Peace(1)

The respected Bible scholar John Barton describes the Bible or 'Holy Scripture' as a story about a disaster followed by a rescue mission. The main characters in the story are Adam and Jesus Christ: Adam who sinned, and Jesus, the "last Adam" (1 Cor 15:45) who obeyed God and through his obedience, even to the point of death, reconciled the whole of humanity with God.

John Milton immortalized the history of salvation in his "Paradise Lost" and "Paradise Regained." At the heart of this is the story of the relationship between God and humanity. Peace, *Shalom* in Hebrew in the Old Testament, *Eirene* in Greek in the New and *Pax* in Latin in later centuries, have various connotations depending on the context. But the underlying meaning is that of the God-willed relationship between Him and his creatures and his creatures among themselves. It is not possible to have one without the other. It is all-important to keep in mind that God is the peace maker. The initiative is always His.

The Bible speaks of peace as God's greatest gift. It is God who placed this deep-seated longing for peace in our heart, making us restless until we have it. The person who promotes peace is, therefore acting in a Godlike way.

"Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God".

The Bible calls Jesus "the prince of peace" (Isaiah 9:6) and his kingdom is 'a peaceable kingdom' where 'the wolf shall live with the lamb.' (Isaiah 11:6). Peace, reconciling the rift between God and humanity is what Jesus' mission is all about. Jesus told us, and showed us by example, what this peace is like.

When Jesus astonishingly says, "I have come not to bring peace but the sword, it is to tell us how different the kind of peace He brings is, to the one the world calls 'peace', just the absence of war. The peace of Christ is the fruit of trusting in God the Father and In Jesus, His Son. That trust is a risk we are called upon to take: that is, essentially, to have faith, to believe in God's offer of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the price we must pay to receive this special gift.

Jesus knows our frailty. So, he tells his disciples at the last supper: "do not let your hearts be troubled, do not let your hearts be afraid." (Jn 14:28). The way to peace Jesus shows us is challenging. It is to go through the narrow gate, turning the other cheek instead of responding to violence with violence, to love our enemies and to do good to those who hate us. Only experience can convince us that this leads to true peace.

To enable us to enjoy God's peace,



Jesus showed us the way by his example. He himself made peace by the blood of the cross (1Col 1:20). The Divine Office (The Liturgy of the Hours) calls Jesus “the king of martyrs”. He gave witness (which is what the Greek word *martyr* means) to the Father’s unfathomable love for us. When the risen Jesus showed his wounds to his friends as he greeted them, he greeted them with, “Peace be with you”. It was his Easter gift to them and to us.

All Christians worldwide receive the gift of peace, of reconciliation with God as they celebrate the the liturgy, the official divine worship of the Church.

Over two millennia, this divine worship has been a ritual response to the experience of God in Christ, a response often shaped by social, cultural and theological forces. At the heart of this ritual is the celebration of the eucharist (the Mass), which the Vatican Council II describes as “the source and summit of the Christian life”. In it, the historic sacrifice of Jesus on the cross is made present during the words of consecration.

An overarching reality in this liturgy is the peace which the participants experience with God and with one another. The faithful are not mere spectators of this wonderful and unique event but actors aware of where they stand in relation to

the world, to one another and to ultimate reality. When the bishop presides at the eucharist, he welcomes the faithful: “Peace be with you”. At the eucharistic prayer, the celebrant recalls the faithful departed “in the peace of Christ”. In the Communion Rite the priest wishes all participants; “the peace of Christ be always with you.” The faithful are invited to exchange a sign of peace– a handshake, a hug, a kiss or just a nod. The mass ends with the priest wishing the faithful “Go in the peace of Christ” or “the Mass is ended, go in peace” or “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

When the martyr Saturninus (AD 305) was accused that he had taken part in the forbidden assembly of Christians on Sunday, he replied “Without the Sunday Eucharist, we cannot live. Do you not know that the Christian exists for the Eucharist and the eucharist for Christians?” We have two unmistakable signs of being at peace. One is in the service of the poor (Mt 25:40) and the other in the Eucharist. When we let Jesus get close to us “he teaches us, transforms us, heals us and becomes one with us in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church”

Alfred Agius

Taking the Long View: God's time and Ours

The psalmist says, '... a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday...', reminding us that God's time is not human time which is, after all, based on how long it takes our planet to spin on its axis. As we are also reminded in Psalm 90, 'The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong': that timespan inevitably colours and constrains everything we do. So how does the eternal and everlasting nature of our God change our perspective?

One instance when I became acutely aware of this relative meaning of time was at the votes for the Ordination of Women to the Episcopate. As a staunch supporter of the proposed legislation, I was deeply disappointed at the outcome of the first vote

in General Synod. 'You prayed, held your vigil, now God has given you the answer', a friend told me. But the time frame of the Church, never mind God's time, is different from ours. Our first women bishops were ordained five years later.

When we seek to do God's will, it seems important to me that we submit to him in time as well as space, or circumstances. That way, we are allowing God to work out his mercy and grace and, importantly, allowing God to work through our weaknesses and failures.

A good illustration of this is the story of David and Bathsheba. I shudder every time I read about the atrocious behaviour of David. Also disturbing is the thought that David continued to flourish and find favour with God afterwards. One message we can take from this story is about repentance and how

God can forgive anything if we are truly penitent. But it is also about God's time frame; taking a long view, one can see that in the eternity of rolling time, one failure is as the blinking of an eye to God.

Time is a complex idea. Of course we have all experienced how time seems to go 'quickly' at times, and drags at others! Even Einstein talked about the relativity of time. St Peter in his second letter (3:8) urges us to '... be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a



thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.’ That might help us understand ‘eternity’ and Jesus’ promise of eternal life a little better. Aligning ourselves with God’s eternity would also help us keep in context the relentless time pressures of daily lives .

Anna Thomas-Betts

[This article was commissioned by the Diocese of Oxford for their magazine, Pathways. It was published in the 2023 Summer issue.]

Would you like to sing?

If it is classical choral music you like, there are church choirs you can join, and Slough Philharmonic Society Choir would warmly welcome you.

Some other local Community Choirs you could join are The Curve Choir and Heschel Stars, both conducted by Rob Harris and the Slough Community Youth Soul Choir.

Most choirs welcome new comers.

You’s and Kids

Are you a one who’ll bring kids to the Lord?

For him to lay hands on and pray?

Or are you one who drives them away?

Though Jesus wants children aboard?

For unless you become like a wee little bairn

You won’t enter the Kingdom of God.

For the greatest within the Kingdom of Heaven

Has come in like a child—how odd.

If you are the one to cause Children to sin

And to lead any child such a life to begin

‘Twere better said Jesus that a millstone should be

Tied round your neck and you drowned in the sea.

Bill Birmingham

(By permission from ‘Diverse, Converse and in Verse – some scriptural musings’ by William Birmingham, published by Austin Macauley publishers)

The story of Ruth

In this issue of *Around Langley* a number of people tell us why they came to live in Langley.

There is a fascinating story in the Old Testament of a woman who, about three thousand years ago, moved from her home, somewhere in Moab, with her mother in law to settle in Judah. (*The ancient country of Moab is now part of Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and that part of Judah is now in the West Bank, Palestine.*)

‘What brought you to Bethlehem, then?’ a fellow worker, gleaning barley in the field, might have asked Ruth. This would well have turned out to have been a question posed to the future wife of prosperous farmer Boaz, who would later give birth to Obed, the grandfather of the future king David of Israel! She was clearly a foreigner, and foreigners were rarely encountered in those parts.

The July 2020 *Around Langley* carried a short introduction to the book of Ruth and it is the heroine of that book who is facing this question.

She would have responded by explaining how she had travelled over fifty miles from her homeland on the other side of the Dead Sea with her mother in law, Naomi who was returning to her home town in Judah, following personal tragedy. Ruth had married one of Naomi’s sons, and within a few years, both her father in law

and her husband had died. So too had a brother in law.

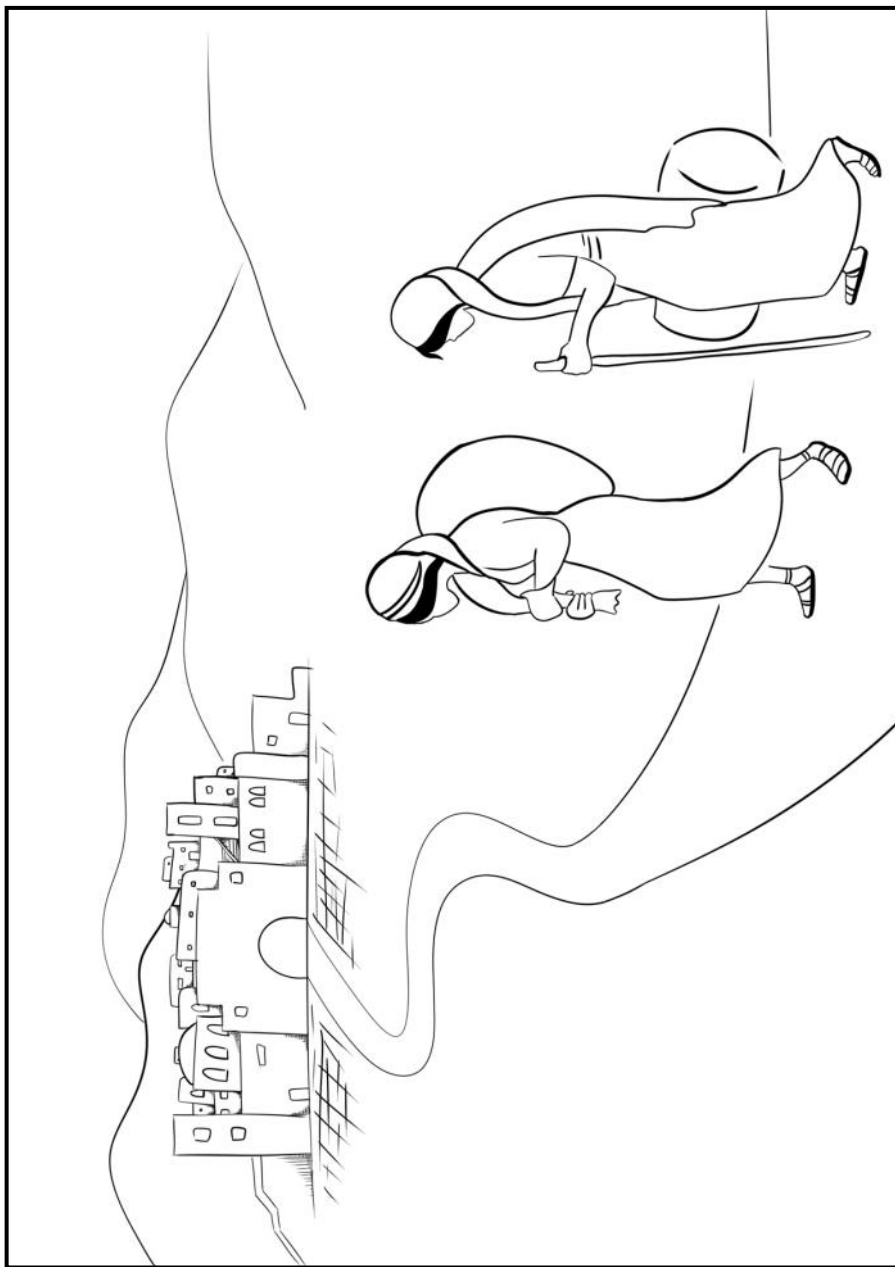
The grief stricken and homesick Naomi decided to go back home, which she had learned was now free of the famine that had led her, with her husband, to emigrate in the first place. During those years in Moab, Ruth had formed a strong affection for Naomi and had decided to go with her, despite Naomi trying to discourage her. She knew what it was like to be a widow in a strange land. After Ruth had convinced Naomi that she was serious, they walked that hard, dangerous route around the Dead Sea to get to Bethlehem – *yes, the one we sing about in Christmas carols.* Some challenge for two not so young women!

Ruth would also have explained, in answer to the question, how she had grown close to Naomi in their bereavements, and how this had developed into love and care for each other. She had learned something about the Jewish faith. and wanted to worship the same God that Naomi did.

This is a truly romantic story and most of us who read it are surprised to find it in the Christian and Jewish Bibles. The story would continue with the strange courting of Boaz and a joyful happy ending.

Why not, if you have a bible, look it up and read it? The book only has four chapters. Or you could google it on your phone.

Tony Randall



Naomi and Ruth travel to Bethlehem
[A drawing for you to colour in.]

Another puzzle from Angus MacKenzie

How many Street
Name prefixes in
LANGLEY
can you find?

WORDSEARCH



ALDERBURY
AMANDA
BRACKENFORDE
BURROWAY
CEDAR
CHADWICK
CHERRY
DRAKE
FIELD
FOX
FOXHERNE
GOSLING

HARVEY PARK
HUMBER
KEMPE
MAPLIN
MARKET
MARYSIDE
MEAD
NASH
PARLAUNT
POPPY
RANDALL
RAYMOND

SHARNEY
SPITFIRE
STARLING
STATION
SUMMERSBY
SUTTON
TAMAR
TRELAWNEY
WILLOUGHBY
WINDRUSH



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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 350444 langleyymarish@gmail.com

St Francis Church

www.langleymarish.com/stfrancis

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

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

Hall Hire: Mrs Joy Raynor 01753 676011 joyraynor@aol.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 tel. 07894 535522 christthe worker@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

<https://www.langleyfree.org.uk/>

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