

October & November 2023

Around Langley



Langley Library

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

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Copy Deadline 15th of
 the month before
 publication (August)

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Printing by
 Print Direct Solutions

Calling all readers of *Around Langley*

Do you enjoy reading Around Langley? Are you interested in joining the new Editorial Team about to be set up? If you would like to contribute to reviews of past issues and share ideas for the future of the magazine, please contact Tony Randall or Anna Thomas-Betts for further information.

Warm Welcome - hot food.

Here at Langley Free Church we understand that lots of people will be struggling even more this winter with energy, food and the general cost of living.



As part of the national "Warm Welcome" campaign and other local initiatives in Slough, we want to offer our neighbours as much support as we can. Starting 14th November, every Tuesday, all are welcome to come along from 5pm until 7pm: hot food will be available after 5.30pm. We will be open for all ages to come and take advantage of (free) hot food in a safe place, with refreshments and games available, to chat with others or just to relax. Those under 16 must bring an adult with them.

If you would like to come along there is no need to book, just come along. Any questions please call or text the office on 07770 074812

Suddenly it is Autumn... indicating that the earth's path is taking it further away from the sun and with the north pole nearer the sun. Our land gets colder, the leaves of the trees are falling and the harvest is in.

The usual American term 'Fall' originated in England and shared the use of Autumn here until the 18th century to describe this season. Both words were taken across the Atlantic, but it is Fall that has survived there and Autumn here.

Looking back, the Langley Carnival in July gave us the opportunity to come together and share in a range of activities. Despite some unkind weather it was again a success. 'Around Langley' was one of the recipients of the proceeds from this event, for which we are grateful and Anna and I were pleased to accept the cheque from the Mayor of Slough. (picture below).

Many of us were concerned at the possible loss of our library service and are grateful that it has been kept going. Alison Beer, Principal Outreach Officer, has written an article about the library in Trelawney Avenue, which I hope will encourage us to make good use of it.

In this issue two Langley residents share their passion for what appears to be more than a hobby, and a third has written a poem which tells of 'Holiday at Home' which some of you will have enjoyed. In the poem, Elisabeth acknowledges the part played by the first editor of Around Langley, Bill Birmingham, and his wife Barbara over the years.

Finally, and on a serious note, we are often horrified by the presence of evil

in our society. As Christians, who believe in a God of love, mercy and justice, this is a serious challenge. The article on page 9 by Isabelle Hamley might help us put this in perspective.

Enjoy your read!

Tony Randall



News from Around Langley

Langley Library

Summer Reading Challenge *Ready, Set, Read* is now drawing to a close. The theme this year was sport, games and play. The Challenge encouraged children to enjoy all the benefits of reading for pleasure over the summer, and rewards them with free goodies as they read more books. Over 460 have participated at Langley Library, with 10,165 children's books issued. So far, 150 medals have been awarded at Langley Library to proud young readers who have completed the Challenge.

Eleven volunteers have supported the Challenge in Langley, inspiring children to take part while gaining valuable new skills themselves. If you are interested in volunteering at the library, please email Libraries.CultureVolunteering@slough.gov.uk

Storytime Pre-school children can enjoy stories, songs and rhymes at Langley Library storytime:

Mondays 11.00 – 11.30am (followed by a 30 minute DUPLO session) and Fridays 11.00 – 11.30am



Saturday opening at Langley Library is now on the third and fourth Saturdays of the month 10am to 4pm. For the latest information, please check the website www.slough.gov.uk/libraries

New books The library service has invested in over 500 new children's books for Langley Library that will be hitting the shelves soon. We hope customers will enjoy browsing the new titles.

E-reading Did you know that your library membership gives you the benefit of accessing digital reading material, including digital audio books and books, magazines and newspapers online? Ask library staff for details or visit the website www.slough.gov.uk/libraries/reading

Reading Well Libraries in Slough hold a specialist collection of books to support mental health and wellbeing. Reading Well is a national scheme that offers helpful booklists chosen by health professionals and people with lived experience. There are five book lists available:

Reading Well for children

Reading Well for teens

Reading Well for mental health

Reading Well for long term conditions

Reading Well for dementia

Read more about the scheme at www.slough.gov.uk/libraries/health-wellbeing or ask library staff for details.

Langley Community Coffee Shop



How quickly summer has flown. I really hope you managed to get away but now realize how difficult it becomes as we get older to have the courage to go somewhere on our own. It is good though to get back to our routine and to meet up with friends again at the coffee shop.

One of the objectives of the coffee shop is to provide talks on topics of interest. In September we had a speaker from SHOC, Slough Homeless Our Concern (SHOC). The cost of living crisis has created a large increase in people being made homeless and it is good that there are organizations such as SHOC to give a helping hand to these desperate people. We also held our Macmillan Coffee Morning in September.

Our speakers in the autumn: on 24th October the speaker is from Médecins sans Frontières (to be confirmed), and on 21st November Richard Emerson will speak about a local man, Vincent Evans, a miner turned painter.

On 29th November St Lawrence Church is organizing a trip to St Albans which has a lovely Cathedral as well as a market. We are invited to join them. The cost will be about £15.

This year's Christmas Lunch will be on December 5th at Wexham Park Golf Club.

The cost for a two-course meal is £19.50 and £23 for a three-course meal, with a £5 subsidy for Coffee Shop members. The deadline for payment is the end of October.

So there is plenty to look forward to. Anyone wishing to make new friends or to join our activities is welcome as is anyone who would like to volunteer to help. We meet every Tuesday from 10am to 11.30am in St Joseph's Hall at the back of the Holy Family Catholic Church, SL3 7UD. If you need further information, please contact me on 07859750508.

Sheila Papali

I used to go to an Origami club— until it folded

Ah, the old jokes are the best. In real life, I'm the Treasurer of the British Origami Society (BOS). So I guess you could say that I'm actively trying to make sure it doesn't fold! How did I get to this point? Like most people, I grew up learning a few classic playground things that you could make out of paper, like basic paper airplanes, or the fortune-teller. But beyond this, it was all a mystery. There were some models in the Daily Express "Rupert Bear" annuals, and my mum bought me a copy of "Teach Yourself Origami", but after the first few pages it got too confusing and I never picked it up. But that all changed.

I can place the exact moment when I started my obsession with origami to around 9:15am, on January 1st, 2002. My wife had bought me a calendar as a silly little Christmas present. It was one of those square blocks of paper with one sheet for every day. There might be cartoons, or silly pictures of cats. Each day you peel off yesterday's sheet and usually throw it away. But this one was an origami calendar. It had instructions: today's sheet showed you what to make by folding yesterday's sheet. It was full of simple models. By the end of January the calendar was useless – it was reading the middle of March, and my workmates were noticing little origami models appearing in meeting rooms and around my desk. Then one colleague suggested that I join the BOS. I did, and never looked back!

The BOS publish a magazine six times a year and hold conventions in the spring and autumn. At the time of writing, I am preparing to go to the next one, in Kingston-on-Hull, to commemorate one of the founding members of the Society. People come from all over the world, and some of the creations they exhibit are truly amazing. On this occasion we have as a speaker a Japanese lady, Shoko Aoyagi, who creates wonderful simple models that are clean and elegant.

Origami has many different varieties, like other kinds of art. The purest kind tries to make models out of single squares of paper, with no cuts or glue. Others have



multiple pieces. Some use rectangles or other shapes as a starting point. There are models with only one or two folds, and others with many hundreds. Subjects range from animals and flowers to useful things like boxes and envelopes, to geometrical shapes or abstract patterns. Some are very simple and forgiving, and others are incredibly difficult.

Some origami creators make their own paper, to ensure the fibres are aligned perfectly to allow the complex folds. Other models can be made perfectly well from old newspaper. There are birds that flap, frogs that jump. Some people create generic things like "a butterfly". Others make ones so detailed that you can identify the Latin name of the species!

There's a guy I know who lives near Maidenhead who has made a working zipper, a differential gearbox, and a slinky spring, all from paper. We are quite tolerant in the BOS and will encourage anyone who wants to try it out. But overall, the members of the BOS have a great sense of fun. I sometimes say they

are passionate about origami, but don't take it too seriously.

We have silly competitions at times. Once we had a team game where the members had to fold something wearing boxing gloves! The only thing we get annoyed about is when people fail to acknowledge the creator of a model. Many models appear in internet videos without doing this.

I still consider myself very much a beginner, even after 21 years.

David Raynor

Why I Craft

Like many people who have a craft as a hobby my journey started in childhood. My earliest crafting memories are of creating Christmas decorations in the kitchen with my Mum and siblings on winter afternoons with lots of poster paints, glitter, glue and cotton wool. I then learnt to knit and sew with varying degrees of success.

Over the years I have migrated through learning many different crafts, the first one that became a passion in my teens was cross stitch. I enjoyed the immersion in the projects, the ability to have an end product that could be made into something, such as a picture, a bookmark, a pincushion and then given as a gift. One ambitious Christmas I decided to make cross stitch Christmas cards which I loved making and giving but were very time-consuming. The

following year I decided to make my own cards again, but this time with paper kits and so my love affair with paper crafting began.

I have sustained this love of paper crafting in its many forms over the past 20 years. I have enjoyed card making, stamping, stencilling, decoupage, die cutting, computer crafting, book making, book folding, mono printing and 3D paper model making to name but a few. All of which have ended up in some form of card or gift.

Over the years people have commissioned bespoke cards or items that they would be unable to find anywhere else, and I have enjoyed the challenge of producing something a little out of the ordinary. This has included wedding stationery, favour boxes and decorations for three weddings.

I have worked with children both professionally and at church most of my



Wedding Flowers

adult life and have found my gift of crafting to be invaluable. When putting activities together at Langley Free church for Sunday School, J-team and Messy Church I have been able to draw on my knowledge and experience to produce various fun, messy and learning activities for the children to enjoy. At work it has enabled me to produce resources that would otherwise be unavailable or very costly.

In more recent times as well as producing my usual cards for family and friends I have taken to book making. This started as a means to produce handmade baby books as gifts for family members to document their child's first year. Over time it has developed into art journaling. I had come to the point when I realised that much that I was creating were not what I wanted to make, but items I was making to give to others and so I had catered for the 'audience' not my own interests. With art journaling, as I have no intention of giving the books away, I am able to create what I want at that moment, often not having an end vision in mind just going with the flow. This means that I have complete freedom to use whatever mediums I wish and just be creative. I allow myself the time to create, to let the process happen. I find the joy is as much in the making as it is in the finished product. If I don't like what I produce, I can just turn the page and start a fresh.

Aileen Cantore

Holiday at Home

If you need a break but that causes
confusion

What can you do? What's the solution?

You can't go away – not fit – low on
cash

I'll give you the answer now – in a flash.

Have your break at home! Find friends
and laughter

Three days of fun you'll remember
years after.

Remember God's love is for ever and
ever

And it's in God's love we met together

You could paint or draw or thread some
beads,

Try something new – see where it leads.

Fold paper and produce a bird,

Have a neck massage or search for a
word.

Ukelele, piano, guitar might be heard,

Some poetry (Roald Dahl's is quite
absurd)

Watch magic, join in singing songs,

You'll be kept engaged the whole day
long.

You could exercise while you're still
sitting

Or choose your wool colour and do
some knitting.

There's tea or coffee for you to guzzle

While you find a piece for the jigsaw
puzzle.

There's everything to suit your mood

And I haven't even mentioned food;

Sausage hotpot, shepherd's pie,

Fish and chips (we went out to buy!)

Ice cream, jelly, creamy rice.
All delicious, gone in a trice.
Oh – I quite forgot the rhubarb crumble,
That should stop a tummy rumble.

Thanks to the ladies who work hard to
prepare
This array of generous, tasty fare.
And washed the pots or set the places,
Served the food with smiles on their faces.

Thanks Bill and Barbara and Christine;
Together you made a special team.
Now if you missed the fun – no fear,
There'll be another chance next year.

Elisabeth Howell

It can't be Lucy. Not nice Lucy...'

It's hard to reconcile pictures of a smiling young woman, with her friends, together with the chilling headlines: 'Britain's most prolific child-killer'.

Lucy Letby was sentenced to spend the rest of her life in prison, for horrific crimes against the most vulnerable. Alongside headlines of the trial are the puzzled questions: how could she get away with it for so long? Why weren't warnings heeded earlier? How could she? Why?

A harrowing interview with one of the consultants reports the day when he and other colleagues first realised that Lucy Letby was the common factor between unexplained deaths and near collapses. One of them exclaimed, 'not nice Lucy!'

Dealing with the reality of evil in our midst is something we all struggle with. It's easier when those who perpetrate evil are visibly different, or 'other'. We can demonise them, call them monsters, and doubt their humanity. It's harder when

they're friends, family, or colleagues – people on our frontlines, who look and sound just like us. Then, we're tempted to look aside and go into denial, with potentially horrendous consequences.

I am always moved by the account of the last supper and the washing of feet. Jesus washes all his disciples' feet – including Judas. He treats the betrayer with the same respect and love as the others. And yet equally, Jesus also points to the terrible consequences of the choice Judas makes: 'woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.' (Matthew 26:24)

Somehow, the challenge is to hold together both the humanity of the one who commits evil, and their difference. It is only by both facing the horror of their actions *and* seeing them as human, with free will, that they can be held fully responsible for their actions. It is because we still consider the most evil killers fully human that the sentencing judge was able to thank the mental health team that supported Lucy Letby. Deeply Christian values have shaped our justice system: both holding people accountable, and treating them humanely, in ways they denied those they hurt.

There are many in our churches called to walk on these complex frontlines, in the criminal justice system, in healthcare, in chaplaincy, in volunteer roles with multiple charities. Now is a good time to thank them for facing what most of us prefer to look away from, and pray for them.

Prebendary Dr Isabelle Hamley

(This article is reproduced here with the kind permission of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.)

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, 8th October and 12th November. 26th Ordinary Sunday

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 First, Second and Third Sundays,

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

Fifth Sunday, no fixed format

**All Souls Day Service commemorating the dear departed
Sunday, October 29th, 6.30pm at St Mary**

Regular Activities at Langley Churches

Bible Study

On Zoom Wednesday afternoons, 2pm
(Contact: diana.iller@gmail.com)

Langley Free Church: Thursdays 7.30pm at church and mornings at a house.
(Contact secretary@langleyfree.org.uk or phone 01753 540771)

Christ the Worker: Mondays, 2pm (Contact: Shola aoko <shola_aoko@yahoo.co.uk>)

'MONDAYS' at LFC

If it's company you're after, why not join us at Langley Free Church on a Monday for a cuppa—any time between 11am and 2pm. Come for an hour or two, or stay for longer. 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

Midweek Fellowship and occasional guest speakers.

Contact: Ann Portsmouth 01753 585845

Christ the Worker and Shamrocks Friendship Club



Every Monday at the Shamrocks pub, 10am—noon, 12 Parlaunt Road, Langley, SL3 8BB. Tea, Coffee, useful information from guest speakers and more... Everyone welcome.

Messy Church

There will be a messy Church at Langley Free Church on 12th

November, including a meal, 4 to 6pm



REFRESH! at St Francis

Third Thursday of every month, (19th October and 16th November) 1.30—3pm
Join us for tea and cake and fellowship with a talk or maybe a quiz or even a surprise activity!

A warm welcome awaits you!



Craft Afternoons 2023 at LFC 12—4pm

Bring your hobby along and join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month, 21st October and 18th November.

Contact Chris on 07789 838 500.

(Suggested donation £2 towards refreshments)



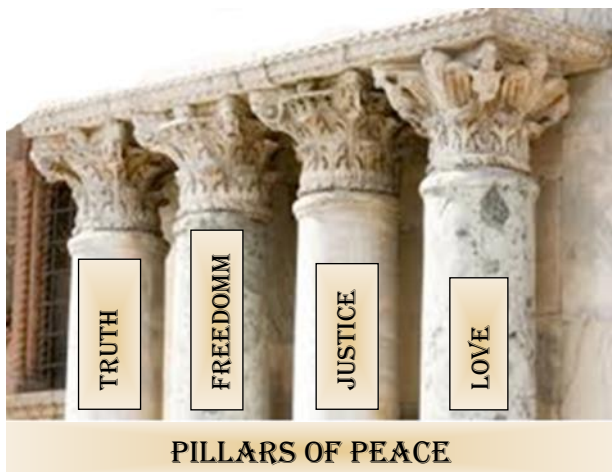
Peace (Continued from the last issue)

Pope John XXIII's radio broadcast on 25th October 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis is credited with having helped to de-escalate a potential nuclear conflict. Six months later he published a weighty document about Peace, entitled "*Pacem in Terris*". Even today, 61 years on, this teaching document remains a sound basis on which an in-depth analysis of the nature of peace can be made. Pope John singles out what he calls the four pillars of peace – Truth, Freedom, Justice and Love. If one of these fails, it will be very difficult to retain Peace.

The first casualty of war is truth. War is often built, to a significant extent, on lies and falsehoods. We are right, they are wrong. They bear all the blame. Ours is a holy war. We are inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. They are on the verge of surrendering. But beneath this surface there is a deep truth. It is the truth that we are all persons, sharing the same dignity whatever our race and gender, whatever political, linguistic or religious differences we have. Moreover, the truth question is not only for the heads of state but also for each one of us. How do I look at others? How do I look at myself: better than others, inferior? Does the anger within me arise from my low self-

esteem, any prejudice I have? The more truthful I am about all this, the more peaceful I will be. Talking about himself Jesus said: "I am the Truth" later adding "the truth will set you free" (Jn 8:32). The more I accept that I am a forgiven sinner, but loved by God, the more will I experience peace in my life.

The second pillar of peace, Freedom, stems from the awareness of each one's sacredness, being made "in the image of God" (Gen 1:27). One's ultimate norm of actions and choices stems from the freedom to make one's choices based on the awareness of this God-likeness, making us people who naturally search for truth and justice. The link between peace and freedom is obvious. War most often ends up with one side losing some of its freedom. A peaceful heart is a free heart, and a free heart is one full of peace. While some people think that religion restricts our freedom, it in fact frees us from the slavery to sin. St Paul writes: "it was for freedom that Christ set us free. Therefore, stand firm and refuse to submit again to the slavery of sin." (Gal 5:1). The peace we seek is not through a cheap, selfish freedom that permits us to do whatever we like but one that comes from love and leads us to be of service to others, typified in people like Maximillian Kolbe and Nelson Mandela. There is then the peace that springs from the freedom to accept our own personal limitations,



reparation and vengeance. But forgiveness must begin first from people's hearts before it becomes a social reality.

The pursuit of justice can co-exist with forgiveness. Truth, freedom, justice and a love that forgives, as Pope John wrote, can co-exist and are the basis of Peace. It is far from moral weakness. It is the only way to peace, the way shown to us by Jesus. He, God in human flesh,

maybe our fragile health or our past disappointments, instead of allowing ourselves to become prisoners of our own failings and giving in to anger and bitterness. If we think back on our lives, we might discover how deeply true are the words of Jesus: "we can only save our life if we are free enough to lose it." Reflecting on the freedom we need to enjoy peace we might further reflect on how we respect the freedom of others, building bridges instead of walls, being sensitive to the right to freedom of others of a different culture, race and religion.

The third pillar of peace is justice. There is no peace without justice. World history teaches us that most wars are nothing but the reaction to the injustices and resentments caused by some previous war. Only forgiveness, a dimension of love, the fourth pillar, can break the cycle of vengeance. After three major wars between Germany and France in less than 80 years (1870-1945) peace was achieved by their willingness to live together in peace and not in an endless search for

willingly died by crucifixion at the hands of the Romans. He was handed over to them by his own people, the Jews. Jesus who is the Truth, freely laid down his life, asking pardon for those who unjustly killed him. Laying down his life, Jesus paid the price for the transgressions of humanity. Our sin has been actually paid for by Jesus dying for us. God the Father has accepted the self-immolation of Jesus and has forgiven us. How beautiful and true are the words of the Christian hymn: "Amazing love, how can it be, that thou, my God, should die for me!"

This rather lengthy reflection on the pillars of peace could well be summed up in the words of the Psalmist who long ago wrote: "avoid evil, do good, seek peace and follow it." (Ps 34)

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

A PILGRIM OR A TOURIST?

In 381 A.D. a remarkable lady called Egeria is thought to have been the first pilgrim to travel to Jerusalem. We know of her experiences because the letters she wrote back to her women friends in Galicia, Spain, have survived. And ever since then people have gone on pilgrimage to the land where Jesus lived and died. In our own country in medieval times other sites, this time associated with events or revered people, became incredibly popular. Shrines in places such as Canterbury, Durham, York, St. Albans and Walsingham attracted thousands of pilgrims until they were destroyed in the 16th century by King Henry VIII

A pilgrimage can be defined as a devotional practice which consists of making a special journey to a place of spiritual significance. And it is an activity that seems as popular and as attractive as ever. In our Christian Church people travel to Walsingham (England), Knock (Ireland), Lourdes (France). Fatima (Portugal), Rome, Czestochowa (Poland), Bharananganam (Kerala, India) and Guadalupe (Mexico), to name just a few. Often the pilgrimage is hard work, as any who have walked the Camino to Santiago da Compostella in Spain will tell you.

However, the idea of making a pilgrim journey is not confined to the Christian Church. Lumbini (Buddhist), Mecca (Islamic), Badrinath (Hinduism), Golden Temple (Sikhism), The Western Wall (Judaism) are all sacred places to which people travel in great numbers. In fact, it

is estimated that over 200 million people in our world make a religious pilgrimage each year.

There are, of course, what we may call "secular" pilgrimages that many people make these days. Have any of you been to Graceland or tramped the Inca Trail to Machu or taken the children to Disneyland? These are fun and interesting places to visit. I remember being with my Dad in Dallas, Texas and visiting the book depository from which President John F. Kennedy was shot. It was moving but why, I ask myself, do trips like these not touch my heart in the way that religious pilgrimages do?

I think the answer might be that there is a big difference between being a pilgrim and being a tourist, but sometimes we can find them in the same place! The pilgrim has got to do certain things, have certain disciplines that the tourist finds difficult. I would like to give you an example.

Some time ago I had some time by the beautiful Sea of Galilee where Jesus lived and preached. Often in Jerusalem we are not exactly sure where this or that happened for Jesus but they cannot have moved the Sea and so we know for certain that it was the backdrop for much of Jesus' ministry. By the Sea is the ancient town of Capernaum and archeologists have uncovered the first century synagogue (where Jesus read the Scriptures) and the foundations of the house of St Peter, Jesus' companion, where Jesus visited certainly or may have even lived there. Over these foundations a church with a glass floor has been built so that visitors can look down and get a wonderful view of this special site. When

visiting this church what does the pilgrim try to do? What did I do? I stopped, took a seat and tried to give myself some quiet time to reflect on the events that took place exactly in this place nearly two thousand years. In prayer I wanted to feel a closeness to Jesus and to his companions. I wanted to give myself the chance to feel a chill down my back.... to think that Jesus Christ had been in the place. Just for a few moments I wanted to be a pilgrim.

But I did not get those moments. Crowds and crowds of tourists (not pilgrims) kept coming in. They were noisy and all they did (in a rush) was to find their phones. There was no living in the moment. They wanted photographs to take home. No sitting down, just rush and tear. No reflection. No prayer. In and out!

Perhaps what any pilgrim wants and needs is actually a good metaphor for all life. The art of the pilgrim is to stop, to be quiet, to live in the moment, to put the phone and the camera away and to give thanks for what has been received from the past. In Capernaum I really wanted to be a pilgrim rather than a tourist.

Rev. Kevin O'Driscoll

ESTHER

Imagine you are a very young woman in a foreign land, who is encouraged to enter a beauty competition and so become queen to save your people from extermination.

That is the story of Esther in the Bible. She is living in Susa, the winter capital

city of the Persian empire, and is part of a large Jewish population spread throughout the empire. Their forefathers were brought here as captives by the previous Babylonian regime and they are now generally treated kindly by their Persian rulers. Esther is an orphan and in the care of her older cousin, Mordecai who seems to act as some sort of secret agent for the king, Xerxes.

Two stories emerge to bring about this unlikely event. Firstly, Queen Vashti is deposed by the despotic Xerxes, known as Ahasuerus in the Bible, after she refuses to conform to his demands to entertain an all-male drinking party in his winter palace in Susa with high-ranking guests from around his very large empire. He then goes off to do battle with the Greeks for a few years and returns to seek a new queen. Mordecai encourages Esther to enter the competition.

The background to this story is that Xerxes' most senior official, Haman has an intense dislike of the Jews and of Mordecai in particular. He cons the king into signing an edict to exterminate the Jews throughout the entire empire and sets out to execute Mordecai personally.

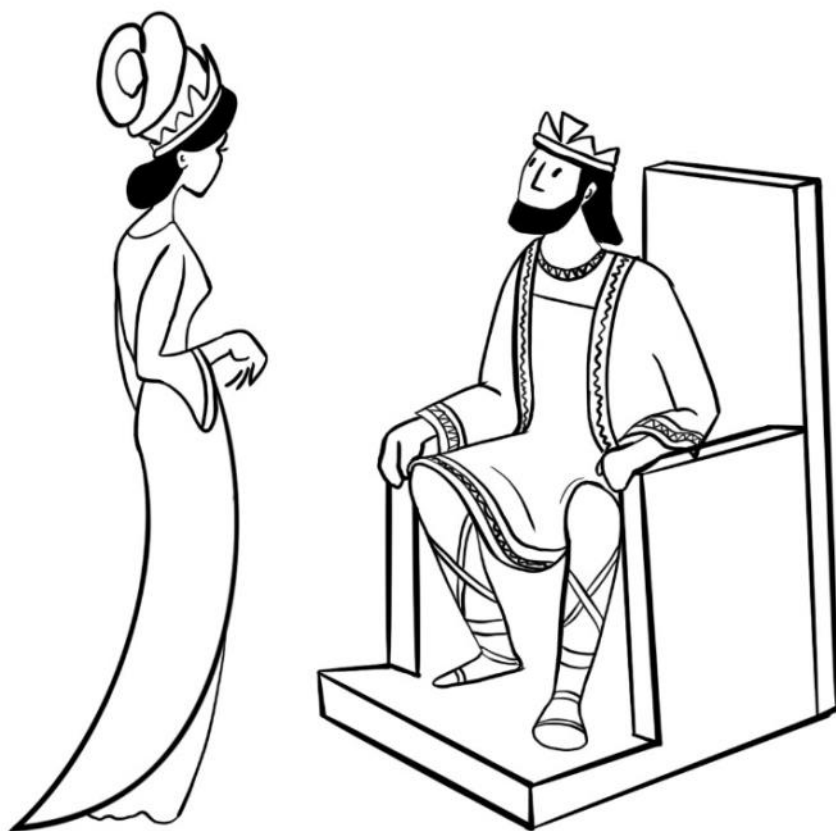
Esther has become queen and, ignoring palace protocol, which could have led to her own death, she helps the king learn of Haman's plot. The king separately discovers how Mordecai has saved his life by unveiling some potential anarchists.

In a storyline not unlike a comic opera, Haman is deposed and replaced by Mordecai and the death sentences of the Jewish people is cancelled.

The full, and somewhat gorier, story of some two and a half thousand years ago is told in the ten chapters of the book of Esther in the Bible. This includes the creation of the Jewish festival of Purim

which celebrates the Jewish people's deliverance from annihilation. That celebration centres on feasting and partying and giving to those less well-off, while recalling the story of Esther. It is celebrated in March and is generally a time of great jollity.

Tony Randall



**Queen Esther risks her life approaching the king.
For you to colour in**

🐦🐦🐦 Festive fun for the whole family 🐦🐦🐦



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 11th November

11:15AM - 2:15PM

LANGLEY FREE CHURCH
Trelawney Avenue, Langley, Berkshire SL3 8RW

St Mary's Langley

DON'T MISS ★

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

PLEASE COME & JOIN US
SHARE DETAILS
WITH FAMILY
& FRIENDS!

Fun Stalls

Refreshments

**25 November
2023**

2.00 - 3.30pm

Father Christmas
from 3.00pm

St Mary's Church
St Mary's Road Langley SL3 7EL

• LANGLEY REMEMBERS •

**Remembrance Sunday 12th November
2023**

**10.45 am at Langley Memorial Park –
opposite Harrow Market, Langley
Please join us in remembering those who
died for us in WW1, WW2 & other
conflicts**

*For more information contact Viv Gibbons 07501 895698
E-mail LangleyRemembers@Gmail.com*

**Dee S
Clark**



*B.Sc(Hons) MChs Dip.pod.med. Member
of The Society of Chiropodist and
Podiatrist*

**CHIROPODIST /
PODIATRIST**

HCPC CH17351

SURGERY AND VISITING PRACTICE

*(By appointment, including
evenings and Saturdays)*

Verrucae, Nail Surgery

Newburn Grange Wood

Wexham

SL3 6LP

01753 552725

www.sloughchiropodyandpodiatry.co.uk



Save the Children

Christmas Card Sale

on Wednesday

25th October

4-6pm at

196 Langley road

*Get your Christmas cards
early! There will also be
tea and cakes available.*



Robert, Chris, Andrew & Michael Lodge

OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY

For over 240 years, eight generations of the Lodge Family have been privileged to help local families in their time of need. We provide all funerals, whether modern, traditional, green or alternative, with care and compassion.

LANGLEY

3 Clayton Parade, High Street, SL3 8HE

01753 780077



"The staff at Lodge Brothers have been sympathetic, understanding and supportive. They were with us every step of the way throughout a very difficult time and we are and will be forever grateful for their support."

★★★★★ - Mr Robinson

Lodge
BROTHERS 1780

the family you can turn to

www.lodgebrothers.co.uk



ASK ABOUT OUR PRE-PAYMENT
FUNERAL PLANS

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 350444 langleymarish@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/>

Secretary: Paul Noyce 07831 428013 secretary@langleyfree.co.uk

Hall Hire: Jenna Kralyik 07927 175182 bookings@langleyfree.co.uk

bookings@langleyfree.co.uk