

October & November 2025

Around Langley



The Canal Bridge at Middle Green

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

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LANGLEY REMEMBERS

Remembrance Sunday 9th November 2025
 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

The annual Remembrance Parade and Service will start as usual with the Parade forming up outside Christ the Worker Church in Parlaunt Road, Langley, and marching off at 10.40. Those attending the service are requested to be in the Park, in place, by 10.45. Reveille will be sounded at 11.00.

During the Service there will be a Reading of Names to be remembered and a laying of wreaths. Members of the public are also encouraged to come and place their tributes on the Memorial. The Service will end with the National Anthem.



"Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower." Albert Camus

Autumn

After the vicissitudes of the seasons we have been experiencing this year, the arrival of autumn, even with the shorter daylight hours, is almost a relief. The gardens also seem to be of a similar view about the days of rain we had after the drought in summer, and are flourishing with summer flowers in bloom.

The conflicts in the world, however, are stubbornly resisting all attempts at resolution and reconciliation. Those of us who are not caught up in it can only imagine how hopeless the situation must be for the people—in Gaza and Ukraine and Sudan and other war-zones. Sad to say, 'Might is right' would appear to have become the deciding factor on the world stage, with organisations established with great hope, such as the United Nations Organisation and World Food Programme having to look on powerlessly as people suffer. We can only continue to pray for justice and peace in the world, and help generously where we can help and make a difference.

The Churches in Langley will miss Father Kevin and Rev. Shola Aoko as they retire from their posts but welcome Father Tony Brennan as he begins his ministry with them. They are preparing for Christmas activities of various kinds and we hope that our readers will support the two Christmas Fairs advertised in this magazine.

I would also like to thank our readers for their response to our requests for help with the distribution, finances and content of our magazine. In this issue you will see a contribution from Magdalena Farynska, written after her visit to CERN in the summer, which we hope will be one of several pieces from her. Please do consider writing about something, anything, that interests you in Around Langley. If you would like to write a short piece about your life in Langley, however long or short, that too would be welcome.

Anna Thomas-Betts

News from Around Langley

Langley Community Coffee Shop



By now Autumn is in full swing with our speaker in September having been from St John's Ambulance brigade talking about CPR. Events to come:

October (date tbc) - David Raynor who will have just returned from his trek in the Pyrenees will talk about Prostate Cancer

November (date tbc) - 'The Great Escape' by Graeme Jenner

December 9th - Christmas Lunch, 12 noon at Wexham Park Golf Club

If you are interested in attending our coffee shop meetings, with 30 minutes of seated exercise provided, join us any Tuesday from 10am until 11.30am in St Joseph's Hall at the back of the Holy Family Catholic Church, SL3 7UD. All are welcome, especially anyone willing to help once a month with serving tea or coffee. Also we really need people to help on the committee.

Sheila Papali

Farewell from the Revd Shola Aoko

The Reverend Olushola Aoko, Team Vicar of the Parish of Langley Marish, will be retiring from her post as Team Vicar on Sunday 12th October, 2025. Shola was ordained both Deacon and Priest in the Diocese of Southwark and after serving

her title, she became Team Vicar in the Parish of St. Laurence-In-Thanet Team Ministry, Ramsgate, in Canterbury Diocese. She served seven years in Ramsgate before moving to the Parish of Langley Marish Team Ministry as Team Vicar in 2017.

Shola says: 'The pivotal moment of my life came at my ordination as deacon and priest in the Church of England. That day marked my formal recognition and commissioning to serve, a time of profound celebration, reflection, and commitment to the responsibilities ahead.

With God's help and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I've journeyed forward through every twist and turn of ministry. Whether building friendships or offering support, I've strived to stay focused and undaunted in service.

In Langley, I've been blessed to grow in relationship with so many of you—walking alongside families at Occasional Services; staff and children at Foxborough Primary School and Toadhall Day Nursery; and helpers and young adults at Slough Mencap. Your openness and gratitude have been a delight and an inspiration.

The Shamrock Friendship Club, our community ministry run between the church and the Shamrock pub, continues to astound. Two years in, its impact has been remarkable: a stressed young man calmed down and passed his driving test after we prayed with him, and a critically ill child recovered after a heartfelt prayer. These stories of answered prayer have



blessed us all, and our closing Monday morning prayer has become a treasured highlight for many.

I've also been honoured when folk at the pub, who don't attend Church services, ask for prayer. It's humbling and reminds me that ministry happens wherever God calls us.

Over the past seven years at Christ the

Worker, I've witnessed profound growth: lay leaders, young people and children have learned to lead services, to engage with the community, and embrace the love of Jesus. The shared enthusiasm across CtW, St Mary, and St Francis has made this a truly blessed Team Ministry.

It has been a privilege and honour to serve God and the Langley Marish community. Thank you for allowing me to journey alongside you. Your support, friendship and love have been invaluable. Though I will deeply miss you, I carry with me memories of shared laughter, prayer, and purpose as I prepare for my new adventure in Eastbourne.

Please join me for my farewell service on Sunday 12th October 2025 at 11am, at Christ the Worker Church, Paulant Road, Langley SL3 8BB, as we celebrate our journey together and say our goodbyes. I hope to see as many of you as possible.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for letting me serve you, and may God bless you all.'

Rev. Shola Aoko

Anna Thomas-Betts writes:

Shola Aoko has been a valued staff member at the Langley Marish parish for the past seven years. She was highly organised as a minister, always thinking and planning ahead. Her ministry, particularly in the District of Christ the Worker, has been characterised by outreach activities as well as inclusivity—whether in reaching out to schools and playschools or, at the other end of the age range, through the much loved Shamrock Friendship Club (an excellent example of church collaborating with a secular body). Her pastoral care, during the Covid period especially, was much appreciated by the parishioners. The social events organised by CtW in her time were enjoyed by many, and their International Evenings will continue to linger in our memories for a long time. *Around Langley* wishes her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Welcome to Father Tony Brennan

On the weekend of the 6th/7th September, Holy Family Parishioners said their farewells to Fr Kevin after his twenty three years here. Our new Parish Priest is Fr Tony Brennan.



Fr Tony grew up in Langley attending Holy Family Primary School. He was ordained in our church in 1994 and since then has served in a number of parishes in the Northampton Diocese. Fr Tony's last Parish was St Mary's, Dunstable, where he spent six years. Fr Tony celebrated his first Masses as the new Parish Priest of Holy Family on the weekend of the 13th/14th September. *Around Langley* joins the Parish in welcoming Fr Tony and looks forward to working with him.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF MAKING HISTORY *The Langley Marish United Charity Seeks a New Trustee*

The Almshouses in St Mary's Road are managed by a Charitable Trust. There are usually seven Trustees who volunteer, and we meet four times a year. We are now looking to recruit one more Trustee.

The Almshouses date back to 1617, with other units being added more recently. They have been set up by various local people to support those in the community who are in need of good housing. Nationally, Almshouses continue to be a key provider of housing for those in need. This is not just for conserving historic buildings, but also to respond to the changing needs of society and even providing new accommodation.

Applicants should have an interest in people and buildings in a historic situation.

Please contact the Chair, Dr Elizabeth Campbell, on 07930 310201 for more information. <https://www.langleyalmshouses.co.uk/>

CERN Marks 70 Years of Scientific Discovery

CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. Founded in 1954 by 12 Western European countries, CERN was established to revive scientific collaboration in Europe following the Second World War. Today, it stands as the world's leading centre for particle physics.

Situated near Geneva on the border of France and Switzerland, CERN is best known for exploring the fundamental nature of the universe. Its facilities include the Large Hadron Collider and the Super Proton Synchrotron, two of the world's most powerful particle accelerators. These machines allow researchers to recreate the extreme conditions that existed moments after the Big Bang, offering insights into how matter and the universe itself came to be.



Superconducting Magnet at CERN

Beyond its cosmic investigations, CERN's technologies have had a wide-ranging impact. Research into particle acceleration and detection has contributed to practical innovations in medicine, industry, and cultural preservation. Tools developed at CERN are used in cancer treatments such as proton therapy, which targets tumours with remarkable precision, particularly in sensitive areas like the brain. Advances in cryogenics and superconductivity have also helped improve medical imaging techniques, including MRI technology.

CERN's influence extends into areas such as archaeology and conservation. By analysing how different materials respond to particle exposure, scientists can determine the composition and age of ancient manuscripts, paintings, and artefacts without causing damage.

The discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012 was one of CERN's most celebrated achievements. This particle, long predicted by theoretical physics, helps explain how other particles gain mass and was a major milestone in understanding the building blocks of the universe.

Perhaps one of the most widely known contributions from CERN is the invention of the World Wide Web. Originally developed as a tool to share research data more efficiently, it has since

become a cornerstone of modern communication.

With more than 18,000 scientists from around the globe involved in its work, CERN remains a powerful symbol of international cooperation. As it moves beyond its Seventieth year, the organisation continues to push the boundaries of science and technology, demonstrating how research carried out deep beneath the Alps can have a lasting impact on lives around the world, including right here in Langley.

Magdalena Farynska

My Life in Langley

Langley has been a very happy place for me. We came to live here in 1970, with four children ranging in age from eleven years to two years old – two girls and two boys. So, of course like so many others, we were looking for schools to accommodate them all. We were well served, in that we found playgroups, infant and junior schools as they were called then, and both senior schools and county schools for boys and girls, all within walking or cycling distance from home. Our new house was situated in a cul-de-sac of twelve houses on the new estate built on Sutton Seeds old nursery grounds. We used to get surprising plants popping up in our gardens, left in the soil from the nursery!

We joined St Mary's church and also attended its sister church, St Francis. Again the churches and several

supermarkets were within walking distance. We made many friends very quickly as there were many young families on the estate and at church, too.

As the family got older, I went back to teaching 5-year-olds at Wexham Court School – again within easy cycling distance. My husband, Ken, had the family car – to get to work and to take us all on holiday. Ken and I both took early retirement at the same time when his company moved to France. We were looking forward to doing many things together, but fate decreed otherwise, as Ken had a stroke within just four months of his retirement so I became his carer for the next 26 years.

My connection with the church and the many activities available were invaluable for me at that time. The downside was that Ken could no longer drive and I had to take up driving – which I hated! Still, it enabled us to get out most days and develop a routine of visits to garden centres and cafés. I enjoyed my garden too, and began to grow vegetables, as well as flowers.

Now I am in my 80s and still living in the same house (but downstairs). I am surrounded by good and helpful friends and have a handicap-scooter to help me keep independent, everything I need being within easy distance. I have seen a few changes, but I am still very happy living in Langley.

Jeanne Roddick

LANGLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP



After the Safer Langley initiative was established in November last year, we have seen a reduction in crime in Langley and stronger community links. The Safer Slough Partnership, made up of the Slough Borough Council and Thames Valley Police, has been working with community groups and local voluntary sector organisations to reduce crime rates and perception of crime in Langley.

Operational delivery groups were set up to focus on particular areas: Business, enterprise, and employability; Health and Wellbeing; Youth engagement, education, and prevention; Anti-social behaviour (ASB); Crime, and Voice of the community. Partners have been running activities for families, offering learning opportunities for young people and working with businesses to build a picture of the skills gap they have, to identify any routes for young people into work.

Safer Langley is part of the Home Office's **Clear, Hold, Build** framework and Langley was chosen for this focused work after a period of significant violence, including two knife crime murders within 18 months. The Clear phase focused on disrupting organised crime groups such as

those involved in violent activity and drug and knife crime and making the area a safer place to live and work.

There has been a 43% reduction in reported knife crime in Slough since the launch, 67 stop searches and 41 arrests through officers carrying out high-impact patrols, as well as cannabis factories closed, and closure orders issued on properties being used for criminal activity. Drugs, weapons and catapults have been seized and there has been a 25% increase in anonymous reporting to Crimestoppers.

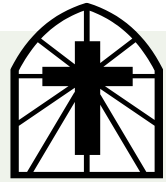
Another CCTV camera was installed in Langley Memorial Park after residents said they didn't feel safe there. There is also more work planned on the peace garden at Langley Memorial Park, and ongoing 0-19 health visiting and support of mental health and addiction services. The council's early years team have also created play and learn opportunities for families to help reduce isolation and increase the sense of community.

The Langley NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) meets at 7pm at Zest Café, Langley College, Station Road, Langley, SL3 8BY on: **Wednesday, 1st October, Friday, 7th November, Friday, 5th December.**

All are welcome. To find out more about joining the NAG, email rebecca.curley@slough.gov.uk

You can also find updates on the Safer Langley website www.slough.gov.uk/safer-neighbourhoods/safer-langley

Rebecca Curley



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.

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.

The Anglican Churches

St Mary the Virgin (St Mary's Road)

8am Holy Communion (BCP, said)

11am Family Communion

ALL SOULS SERVICE, 6.30pm SUNDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER

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

FAREWELL SERVICE OF REV. SHOLA AOKO, 12th OCTOBER, 11am

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

Regular Activities at Langley Churches

Bible Study

On Zoom, Thursday afternoons, 2pm: no programme as yet. **Check with diana.iller@gmail.com for more information.**

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, 1pm (Contact: Audrey Boyle Tel. 01753 583 924)

'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. **(NB NOT on 24th November, because of Christmas Unwrapped)**
Please bring your own lunch.
(Entry charge: £2.)

Christ the Worker and Shamrocks Friendship Club



Every Monday (except Bank Holidays) at the Shamrocks pub, 10am—noon, 12 Parlaunt Road, Langley, SL3 8BB. Tea, coffee, useful information from guest speakers and more... Everyone welcome.
BUT BEWARE! The Council are charging for Car Parking now!

REFRESH! at St Francis

Third Thursday of every month

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!

Oasis at Langley Free

Wednesdays from 1.30 to 3.30pm
Midweek Fellowship and occasional guest speakers.
Contact: Ann Portsmouth 01753 585845

Youth Club at LFC

The Langley Free Church Youth Club meets on Tuesday evenings during school term.
from 7.30pm to 9pm
for Ages 10 to 14 (Years 6-8)
Contact:
Andrew Collett 07719 997649



Craft Afternoons at LFC 12–4pm

Bring your hobby along and join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month:
18th October and 15th November
Contact Chris on 07789 838 500.
(Suggested donation: £2 towards refreshments)



Paul's Letter to the Colossians

In the last issue of *Around Langley*, we looked at the letter to the Galatians. We noted that Galatia was a Roman settlement and Paul was the Apostle who was mainly responsible for the spread of Christianity to the various regions of the Roman Empire. Colossae, in Asia Minor, was another such. Built in a volcanic area, the city no longer exists, but in Paul's time it was a rich area: the fertile volcanic soil produced excellent grazing for sheep and the high quality wool was a source of much income for the city.

The church in Colossae, not founded by Paul, but his friend Epaphras, was young and susceptible to many of the problems encountered by other small, young churches, with many gentiles recently converted as well as Jewish Christians. One of the citizens of Colossae was Philemon, who also received a letter from Paul written roughly at the same time as the general letter to the Church there.

A particular difficulty was that gentiles, the majority population in towns like Colossae, believed in 'gods' who protected the city, each with special functions. Roman emperors, all claiming to be divine, only added to the panoply of gods. Christians, believing in One God, were held accountable for *anything* that went wrong in the town and had to take

the blame for it, suffering much general hostility. All quite difficult and confusing for the small community of Christians.

One of the problems for churches with sizeable proportions of non-Jewish Christians was in deciding how much of the Jewish Law and traditions should become obligatory for them. In several of his letters to the young churches Paul repeatedly emphasises that the Law can be just a burden, enslaving rather than liberating new Christians. His answer is clear: faith in Jesus Christ brought salvation, not obeying the hundreds of Jewish laws.

However, in Colossae there appears to have been another, related problem – that of religious 'syncretism', which simply means the fusion of religious beliefs and practices that exist. In a period of around 300 years before and after Jesus' time, there was a fusion of cultures first due to the expansion of the Roman empires into new territories and later by the conquests of Alexander the Great, and the Greek influence. Inevitably, this brought about the acceptance of various religious and philosophical views in society, generally.

Seeing that they were caught in a combination of polytheism and pressure to observe the laws of the Torah, Paul felt that the church needed encouragement to keep going. So the purpose of this letter was to address those issues theologically, provide the church with support and



The Ruins of Colossae now

encouragement and challenge them to a greater devotion to Jesus through thanksgiving and by their way of living.

The Church has always been wary of the adoption of other world views diluting the Christian message. In Colossians we have clear and definitive statements from Paul. He wants them to have “the knowledge of God’s mystery, that is, **Christ** himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (2:2–3). In fact, the foundation for this statement was laid in Chapter 1, the second half, v12 onwards, being all about the supremacy of Jesus Christ, and reconciliation with God being entirely by his death. Verses 12 – 20 are poetic in the description of Christ: ‘the image of the invisible God’, for example, is profound in its significance.

Thanksgiving is a major theme in this letter, Paul giving thanks to God for them at the beginning and acknowledging that their faith and all the good he sees in them is because of the grace of God. Towards the end of his letter, in chapter 3, he picks up again the theme of new life in Christ, first reminding them that they now have only one identity, ‘Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave

or free, but Christ is all, and is in all’.

Now they are to live a life rooted in thanksgiving (thank*living*, Tom Wright calls it). Paul does this by reminding them of all the vices they are susceptible to, and pointing to garments of virtue that they are to wear (3:12): compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. It

is worth pointing out the similarity to the fruit of the Spirit that Pauls lists in his letter to the Galatians (5:22-23): ‘joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Colossians is sometimes described as “one of Paul’s greatest letters, and yet written to the most unimportant town...”

It is also considered to have been highly influential in the Reformation: its message that believers are ‘complete in Christ’ (2:10) through faith, not rituals or works, and its emphasis on the value of all Christian callings, were central to what the Reformers were trying to achieve.

Anna Thomas-Betts

How our Churches are Governed

In the last issue of *Around Langley*, I wrote a short article showing how services at Langley Free Church differ from those of the Church of England (Anglican) and Roman Catholic ones; this is the promised follow up on how we differ in our organisation too.

Christians believe the church is a living organism, the Bible in I Corinthians talks

of the Church as a living body with Jesus Christ as its head. However, that body works in a number of different practical ways, largely through local churches, represented in Langley by three Churches of England (Anglican), a Roman Catholic church and Langley Free church, among others. Here is a brief outline of how they function.

The Anglican churches, **St Mary the Virgin**, **Christ the Worker** and **St Francis** form the Parish of Langley Marsh and currently operate as a Team ministry. The imminent departure of the Rev. Shola Aoka as vicar of **Christ the Worker** retiring this month, and **St Francis** also without a minister, the future of the Team Ministry is uncertain, with a high demand placed on Rev. Chris Ferris, Rector of the parish. However, the normal practice is for each Parish to have an ordained minister and an elected PCC (Parochial Church Council) and Churchwardens who have legal responsibilities for the church.

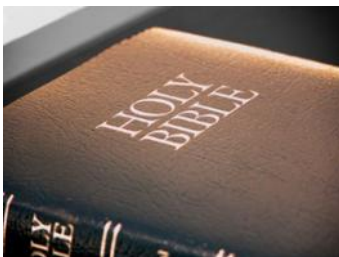
The Church of England is a state church and hierarchical in structure, so that the Archbishops of Canterbury (currently being chosen) and York, and a number of other Bishops, are members of the House of Lords, and the earthly Head of the church is the King. The governance of the church both nationally and, to some degree locally, is by



Parliamentary Law. Langley churches are in the diocese of Oxford which has a sub-division of Buckingham Archdeaconry from where the supporting Bishop, Dave Bull provides help and guidance.

The Roman Catholic Church grew out of the early church and so is the longest established in the West, with the Pope in Rome as its head. There is a Catholic Conference of England and Wales through which policies and practices are developed in this country. This conference is chaired by the Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nicholls, one of the four Archbishops of England and Wales. He has leadership of a number of dioceses, including Northampton, in which Langley is placed. The Bishop of Northampton is David Oakley.

As readers will be aware, Father Kevin O'Driscoll retired last month and the new priest at **Holy Family** is Father Tony Brennan, whom we warmly welcome. He is supported by a deacon, Rev. Graham Jones, and other church officers. Although some Roman Catholic churches have a parish council, Holy Family does not, and uses *ad hoc* groups as necessary to deal with issues as they arise.



Both Anglican and Roman Catholic churches have laws which establish both the form of worship and other practices that can, and in some cases, must be carried out by the local church.

Langley Free church (LFC) is a Baptist church which caters especially for other Christians who feel more at home in a group where *the congregation itself makes most decisions*. LFC is a member of the *Baptist Union* but unlike the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, each church is independent, including financially. The Baptist Union (Baptists Together) comprises nearly 2,000 churches in the U.K. and acts as a collective organisation for these churches which subscribe to its Three Principles –

1. *That our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each Church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.*
2. *That Christian Baptism is the immersion in water into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who 'died for our sins according to the Scriptures; was buried, and rose again the third day'.*
3. *That it is the duty of every disciple to bear personal witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.*

At LFC we would normally have an ordained minister who would lead the church with the assistance of Elders and Deacons. At present we have no minister so these two groups lead the church on

behalf of the church members and congregation. They also act as Trustees. The 'Members Meeting' is the decision-making body though some may be delegated to either of these groups.

The church does receive support from the Baptist Union and its Southern regional ministers and office.

All of the churches are registered charities and have officers that ensure that the law is met in this and other areas, including the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Tony Randall

Why Sing Hymns?

Hymn-singing is yet another Christian tradition inherited from Judaism and the singing of psalms in the Temple. The first Biblical record of a psalm/hymn goes back to Exodus: the 'Song of Moses', sung in praise after God delivered them from Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea.

In Apostolic times, they continued to sing psalms, but other spiritual songs or hymns also started to be used in worship. As Christianity spread out, singing was inevitably influenced by other musical traditions. Indeed, the first fully preserved lyrics we have are those of a Greek evening hymn from the 3rd/4th Century, still sung at evening worship as the hymn "O Gladsome Light ...".

By the Medieval period, Gregorian Chant, or unison singing by monastic orders, set texts to music using repetitive melodies. This was helpful for learning by heart large chunks of texts as well.

What we would recognise as hymns came in the mid-16th Century, with the Reformation, when congregational singing was much encouraged. It was a hundred years later that Isaac Watts hugely expanded the scope of congregational hymn-singing in England. It is to him that we owe those beautiful hymns like 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', 'Joy to the World' and 'O God our Help in Ages Past'.

A significant development that can be attributed to Watts is that singing was broadened out from just the psalms or canticles, into more general themes of theology and mysticism.

Then the mid- to late 18th Century saw the brothers John and Charles Wesley founding the Methodist church, and being musically highly gifted, it was natural that there would be great emphasis on hymns and singing in Methodism. Charles' grandson Samuel Sebastian Wesley later became an eminent organist and composer.

The Victorian era also saw prolific growth in hymns – for seasons and times, for different life events and with musings on theology, and making profound doctrinal issues more accessible to the 'man in the pew'. With the growth of the British Empire, accompanied by widespread evangelisation of the colonies, hymn-singing in the British style spread throughout the Empire.

From the late 19th Century onwards, non-traditional churches in particular took to worship being led by one singer, or a worship band, using musical instruments



other than the traditional church organ.

So it is easy to see that we are inheritors of an evolving musical tradition in worship. Why do we continue to sing? We all know that 'singing is good for you' in many ways. *Hymn* singing is also *spiritually* uplifting when you immerse yourself in the lyrics as well as the music.

However, we are singing less and less as a community and the art of communal singing is almost dying out. The way church-going is on the decline, fewer people will get to know and love some of our wonderful hymns. And yet... it is rather ironic how the largest gatherings of crowds who will mostly have nothing to do with churches, often opt for hymn singing – witness football stadia ringing out with Guide me O thou Great Jehovah and Abide with Me!

I enjoy singing hymns, the more so if I also like the lyrics. I have in past issues written about various of my favourite hymns, among them 'Come Down O Love Divine' and 'O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness'.

Can you think of a favourite hymn of yours? Would you like to write a short piece explaining why it appeals to you? It would be good to publish some of your views.

Anna Thomas-Betts

St Mary's Langley

DON'T MISS ★
CHRISTMAS FAYRE

COME AND JOIN US
 SHARE DETAILS
 WITH FAMILY
 & FRIENDS!

Fun Stalls

Refreshments

Father Christmas
 from 3.00pm

Kedermister Library
 Open

22 November 2025

2.00 - 3.30pm

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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SALE OF PRELOVED ITEMS &
 NEWLY CRAFTED ITEMS

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT

£2 per child

Saturday 6th December 12-4pm

£5 per table to sell (11am set up)

pre-book via text only with

Bel 07961160592 or Jenna 07927175182



Refreshments available, please bring cash
 at Langley Free Church, 100 Trelawney Ave SL3 8RW

Organised by the Toddler Group & Craft Group

Father Christmas photo and present £2 per child

Dee S Clark



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

*Member of The Society of
 Chiropodists and Podiatrists*

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

Another Puzzle from Angus Mackenzie

How many words
associated with
AUTUMN
can you find?

WORDSEARCH



ACORN
ALL SOULS
APPLE
AUTUMN
BALE
BERRY
BLUSTERY
BONFIRE
CHESTNUTS
CLOCK CHANGE
CONKER
CORNUCOPIA

DECIDUOUS
EQUINOX
EVERGREEN
FIREWORKS
FROST
GOOSEBUMPS
GUY FAWKES
HALLOWEEN
HARVEST
HIBERNATE
LEAVES
MIST

MOON
MUSHROOM
PINECONES
PLOUGH
PUMPKIN
RAKE
REAP
SEASON
SQUIRREL
TREAT
TRICK

Some words may be displayed right to left, left to right and from bottom to top



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

<http://www.holyfamily.co.uk>

Parish Priest: Canon Kevin O'Driscoll

Deacon: Rev. Graham Jones

Hall Hire: Mrs Lisa Chong

All contactable at 01753 543770, parish.holyfamily@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Worker: Mr Kieran McKeown 01753 543770 kieranmckeown50@yahoo.co.uk

Langley Free Church

www.langleyfree.org.uk/

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

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