

December 2025 & January 2026

Around Langley



St Mary the Virgin Church

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

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*A Happy Christmas and New Year to
all our Readers*

Editorial

As I write this editorial for the last Around Langley of 2025 we are being reminded that it is winter time. There is a frost on the car windscreen and earlier in the week we had a short snow shower.

December brings with it the shortest day of the year, 21st December the winter solstice, so from then on we can look forward to the days lengthening and the hours of light increasing. December also brings us Christmas when Christians remember the birth of Jesus and they, and many others, enjoy the festive season with parties, family get-togethers, carols, and the sharing of gifts.

With this in mind, this issue focuses, in part, on gifts with an article relating to a teenager's crazy long walk that started in December, part of which he describes as a time of gifts. New contributor, Gillian Harris, retells the Christmas story as just that too, the story of a Gift. And Anna shares some thoughts on wassailing and carols. It's not a carol but you might like to reflect on this early Shaker song –



'Tis a gift to be simple,
'Tis a gift to be free
'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just
right
We'll be in the valley of love and delight

You might google to get the simple tune to which it is sung and which American composer Aaron Copland included in his work, Appalachian Spring.

While many of us can enjoy the present season we need to remember those less fortunate, both locally and world-wide. Some information is provided of local agencies working in Langley that might be of help to someone you know so please make use of it.

This issue takes us into 2026 so as we hope and pray for a more peaceful and prosperous time for all, may I, on behalf of the Around Langley team, wish you a very Happy Christmas and joy in the New Year.

Tony Randall

News from Around Langley

Langley Community Coffee Shop



I am writing this the day after Remembrance Day when we were fortunate enough to have Graeme Jenner give us the real story of The Great Escape of prisoners of war (POWs) from Stalingrad 111 camp in Germany during May, 1945. Graeme's father-in-law was a POW in that camp and participated in building the tunnel. He was able to escape along with 73 others. Sadly 50 of the remaining POWs were shot by the German Guards because of that successful escape.

On a happier note, we hope that the season of Christmas will bring some joy to families everywhere and peace to Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan and that the autocrats of this world will realize that war and greed

are not the way forward.

We also hope that our weekly meetings bring friendship and enjoyment to those who attend. Our forthcoming events are as follows-

2nd December Christmas carols accompanied by the Slough U3A Ukulele group

9th December Christmas Lunch at Wexham Park Golf Club

16th December last meeting of 2025

6th January 2026 The Coffee Shop reopens.

For anyone wishing to join, we meet weekly on Tuesdays from 10.00am until 11.30am in St Joseph's Hall at the back of the Holy Family Catholic Church, SL3 7UD. Besides tea and chat we also provide a half hour of seated exercise and a monthly talk. For further information please contact me on 07859 750508

Sheila Papali

SEEKING A TRUSTEE for LANGLEY MARISH UNITED CHARITIES

The Almshouses in St. Mary's Road are managed by a Charitable Trust. There are usually seven Trustees, who are volunteers, who meet four times a year.

The original Almshouses in Langley date back to 1617, with other units being added more recently.

There is a vacancy for a Trustee at present and applications are invited from people who have an interest in people and buildings in a historic situation. Please contact the Chair of Trustees, Dr Elizabeth Campbell, on 07930 310 201 for more information.

<https://www.langleyalmshouses.co.uk/>



A Time for Gifts

In his short book, *The Gifts of Reading*, travel and nature writer and Cambridge academic, Robert McFarlane, writes of giving away many copies of Patrick (Paddy) Leigh Fermor's book, *A Time for Gifts*, and recommending that others do so too.

I have recently re-read *A Time for Gifts*, the exciting, romanticised, rich in language account of the first leg of an 18 year old's walk from London to Constantinople. The book, which takes him to the Iron Gates on the river Danube, together with the two others that cover the rest of Paddy's journey, was written many years after the saga, which began on a very wet evening from London Bridge in December 1933. I can't possibly capture the excitement that he did, nor write with his richness of language, but hope to give you a few snippets of information about probably the least exciting early part of the journey so that you might wonder at the title, and consider whether you should seek a copy of this book, or indeed the trilogy *Journey across Europe*.

Paddy was a brilliant, but wayward scholar, educated in a very different world to ours, and so having been kicked out of his third school, he was privately tutored to pass an exam which would have enabled him to seek a career in the Army. However, having spent a few dissolute months with friends in central London, he

hit on the idea of a walking trip to Istanbul, which he insisted on calling it by its former name of Constantinople. So, with a packed haversack, a few necessities and a notebook, a few pounds in his pocket and the promise of £1 a month allowance to be forwarded to various Post Offices on his route, he took a boat to Holland to start his adventure. His ability to become part of disparate groups, and form friendships almost instantly, was to prove to be a key element of this saga.

Arriving in a snowy Rotterdam, Paddy found a bar for a very early breakfast and then visited the cathedral – the first of many – before setting out for Dordrecht on a route where he was surrounded by flat low-lying country with windmills punctuating a network of rivers and canals, most of which were frozen and occupied by skaters and at least one wind powered yacht. Paddy was in high spirit despite the weather and on arrival made for a bar for a meal at which he fell asleep. On waking he found himself in a bedroom but when leaving was only charged for dinner but not the bed – the first of much generous hospitality he received during this lengthy journey.

Continuing his journey, after admiring a nearby bell tower, Paddy stopped overnight in a sailor's doss house in Nijmegen before continuing to cross over into Westphalia in northern Germany.

In Goch, he purchased the first of many plaques to nail on to his walking stick, which was stolen with other belongings

later on his journey. Here he first became aware of the National Socialist party which had become the government at the beginning of the year. Soldiers were marching and singing in the streets and party paraphernalia was displayed in shop windows. On his way to Kevelaer, Paddy was told that the uniformed workers in the frozen fields belonged to the (conscripted) Labour Corps.

At Dusseldorf, where he rejoined the Rhine, Paddy asked a policeman for the location of the workhouse. He was directed through a silent factory and warehouse area to a building where he was greeted by a Franciscan monk who led him to a crowded dormitory, full of smelly and noisy, snoring men. After a breakfast of a slice of black bread and coffee, he was provided with an axe to prepare firewood before being released. He had been paired with up with a man from Saxony with whom he shared pleasantries and a cigar before setting off for Cologne.

The two steeples of the cathedral had impressed Paddy long before he arrived in Cologne. This impression was enhanced by hearing its bells and visiting the cathedral and the pre-Christmas atmosphere of the city. He enjoyed a day touring the city with Hans whom he met in a boarding house for bargees.

Here he made a major decision – he would try and thumb a lift up the Rhine on a barge. He achieved this almost by accident, Hans having set him up with

some bargees who were conveying a load of cement due south. From the deck of one of the chain of their barges he was able to view the many ancient castles overhanging the river, and the river 'traffic' going north, until he jumped board near Coblenz. Here Paddy drew comparisons with northern Germany using its drinking glasses and wine cellars versus beer halls, also referencing its mighty fortress before a brief description of a service he attended in a local church. Past more castles and many vineyards, he walked on to arrive in Bingen on Christmas Eve where he found a small Gasthof to stay the night. Being the only customer, he was invited to help with decorations and share in some family Christmas carol singing before going to church with them. On Christmas Day when the family shared gifts the younger daughter gave Paddy a tangerine and a packet of cigarettes, beautifully wrapped, and he regretted having nothing to offer. He wrote the short phrase ***The time of gifts.***

Later, in Vienna nearing the half way stage of this part of his journey, Paddy reflected on the more than 750 mile he had walked, the diversions that he had made, and that he had crossed 3 parallels of latitude and 11 meridians. As he looked to continue, he felt what he described as Goethe's law pulling him towards Italy countered by the call of the Danube and other rivers.

Although geography played a major part

in his story, it was much more about the people he met, their dress, behaviour and history, and in towns and cities, the society and architecture. It included much time with an aristocracy, living in the past and no longer relevant following the demise of the Hapsburg empire. There was commentary on the mixture of races in Middle Europe, with some countries still operating a near feudal system, and the threat of Nazism emerging in Germany and Austria. Paddy genuinely did live the life of a tramp one day,

bedding down in a cowshed or the open air, followed by days in High Society in castles or great estates.

A Time for Gifts? Perhaps not just a fleeting experience in a German home at Christmas. Maybe preparation for a lifetime of excitement, still moving easily between strands of society, a wartime hero, a lover of anything old, especially buildings, and exciting travel. And a love of language to share with others.

Tony Randall

Community Drop-in Services in Langley

At the end of October a number of local groups participated in a Drop-In Day at Langley Free Church, where they were able to share information about the services that they provide in the Langley area.

Here is a summary of much of that information.

Organisation & Contact, and Service provided

SEND 01753 476589 'fis@slough.gov.'
guide to provision of services for those with special educational needs or disabilities

Coram 01753 476589 'fis@slough.gov.'
Parent Champion Volunteering opportunity

Home Start 01753 53572958
'office@homestartberkshireeast.org.uk'
Advice on healthy eating for young families, or to volunteer to help

Child & Family Wellbeing 0300 247 0073
'sloughchildandfamilywellbeing.co.uk'
Nursing service support from pre-birth to adolescence

SENDIASS 01753 787693
'sendiass@slough.gov.uk'
Special Educational Needs & Disability Information, Advice & Support service

Berkshire Healthcare 0118 904 3700
Help with early child communication skills

Healthier Slough 0800 061 4734 or 01753 373646
Help with health issues

Fostering South East 0300 131 2797
'fosterwithslough.co.uk'
Would you consider fostering?

Safer Slough Partnership 01753 691131
'sctshub@outlook.com' *Would you like to help the Langley team?*



ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

Save The Date!

7th February 2026

**Iver Village Hall,
2 Grange Way, Iver,
SLO 9NW**

Doors Open 6.30pm

All proceeds go to our chosen charities.

Dee S Clark



*B.Sc(Hons) MChs Dip.pod.med.
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CHIROPODIST / PODIATRIST

HCPC CH17351

SURGERY AND VISITING PRACTICE

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evenings and Saturdays)
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Wexham
SL3 6LP**

01753 552725

www.sloughchiropodiatry.co.uk

Christmas Music Live Near You! SLOUGH PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY



Christmas Concert

**5:30pm, Sat 13 December 2025
School Hall, Eton College SL4 6DW**

*Tchaikovsky Sleeping Beauty Suite
Chilcott Wenceslas*

Holst Christmas Day

Susan Handy Dance School

Plus, other Christmas favourites as well
as carols for both chorus and audience.

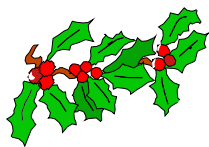
Choral Music

**Saturday
10 January 2026, 6pm
Windsor Parish Church**

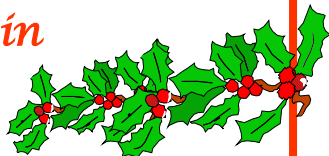
*Gounod St Cecilia Mass
Wagner Siegfried Idyll*

Further information and tickets:
sloughphil.org

Box office: 0300 365 45



Christmas Services in Langley Churches



Langley Free Church

Saturday 20th Dec. 6.30pm Carol
Service (refreshments)

Thursday 25th Dec. 10.30am
Christmas Service



Christ the Worker

Sunday 7th December 6.30 pm
Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Morning 10.00 am
Christmas Celebration

Holy Family Church

Monday 15th Dec. 7pm Holy Hour &
Reconciliation

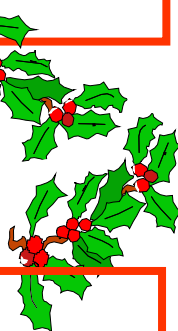
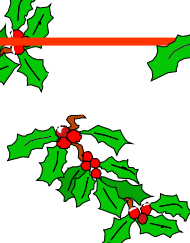
Wednesday 17th Dec. 2pm and 7pm
Reconciliation Services

Friday 19th Dec. 10am Mass and
Anointing of the Sick

Wednesday 24th Dec. 5pm, 7.30pm
and 9.30pm Mass
(carols from 9pm)

Thursday, 25th Dec. 8am and 9.30am
Christmas Mass

Friday, 26th Dec. 10am Mass



St Mary

Wednesday, 24th December 4.00pm
Crib service

Wednesday, 24th December 7.00pm
Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday, 24th December 11.30pm
Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Morning at 10-00am
Holy Communion

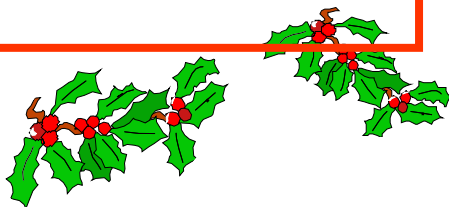
Wednesday 31st December 11.30pm
New Year Vigil Service

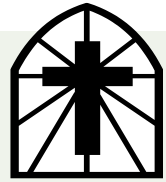
St Francis



Sunday 21st December, 3.00 pm
Coffee and Carols

Christmas Morning 10.00 am
Christmas Celebration





Regular Weekly Service Times

See Page 9 for Christmas Services, including New Year Vigil.

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

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

Regular Activities at Langley Churches

Bible Study

On Zoom Thursday afternoons, 2pm: no programme until Lent in early February. 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 01753 583924)
But **NOT** on 29th December

'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 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.)

NB No meeting on 22nd or 29th December.

Oasis at Langley Free

Wednesdays from 1.30 to 3.30pm
Midweek Fellowship and occasional guest speakers.

Contact: Ann Portsmouth 01753 585845

Messy Church at Langley Free



Please check LFC website for updates and information on Christingle and meetings in 2026.



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.

NB No Meeting on 29th December

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!



Craft Afternoons at LFC 12–4pm

Bring your hobby along and join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month. **There is no meeting in December,** next meeting on 17th January. Contact Chris on 07789 838 500. (Suggested donation £2 towards refreshments)

Faith Matters

The True Christmas Gift

As the daylight hours shorten and the north wind gathers strength, our minds begin to focus on the festivities ahead. Look beyond the tinsel, the tree and the turkey, and the image of Mary, riding on a donkey, enters our imaginations. Such a familiar picture, yet so much we don't know. What must she and Joseph have thought and felt when they first heard the decree from the emperor, that all must travel to the town of their ancestors? For them, it would mean a long journey, all the way to Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. How much notice did they get? And can you imagine the frantic packing, unpacking, repacking, as they struggled to prepare not just for that journey but also for the arrival of their son, who would be born very soon, possibly even before they had reached their destination? How they must have asked for God's protection and mercy in the days ahead.

The journey itself would have been very uncomfortable and it's no surprise that at the end, Mary and Joseph were both desperate for somewhere, anywhere, to stop and rest. Their baby was about to be born and they were already exhausted. Did the owners of the place they found - that cosy stable of our imaginations - know someone with good

midwifery skills to support Mary in the hours ahead, or did Jesus arrive, as some believe, in the "blink of an eye"? We don't know, but we can imagine their joy and relief when the baby arrived safely.

Yet even now there was to be no rest. At some point, the stable door opened and the faces of strangers peered in. Picture them - excited, inquisitive, maybe a bit shy? Breaking into quiet smiles, these strangers sidle in, shepherds from the nearby hills. Their leader, the eldest, tells Joseph of the wonders they've seen, of the sky full of angels and singing like they'd never heard before. They quieten down on seeing the baby, suddenly respectful, overwhelmed, filled



with awe - and they worship him. Mary and Joseph hear them long after they're gone, rousing the neighbourhood from its sleep as they praise God at the top of their voices and tell the whole world what they have seen. Best get some sleep, as there will be plenty more visitors in the days to come, now the news of the birth is out.

We don't know when Mary and Joseph left Bethlehem: perhaps they stayed until Jesus was named on the eighth day? In any case, it must have been soon, since he was presented at the Temple in Jerusalem, following the custom in Leviticus, and that would have occurred about thirty days later. What must it have been like for them, standing there, surrounded by that incredible building and marvelling at the words and prophecies of Anna and Simeon. What did it all mean? And then came even more walking, on the long road to Nazareth and their new home.

Days and weeks and months must have passed quickly, with a new baby to care for and a new life to build together. Maybe Mary thought that all the strange goings on had come to an end but then, after about two years, more unknown visitors turned up: men, foreigners, expensively dressed, completely out of place in their little town, talking to Joseph, telling how they watched the skies and found a new star - a star that foretold the birth of a new king. They spoke of their confusion at not finding

the baby at the palace, of their unnerving audience with Herod and of finally being led by the star all the way to this humble house. What to make of these visitors, coming so far, and carrying presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh - unusual gifts for a baby, that must surely have left Mary and Joseph puzzled.

How long was it before Mary and Joseph became aware of Herod's murderous intentions and knew they must flee to Egypt? Joseph would find work there; maybe he'd been before or had friends and family nearby: we simply do not know. Yet it must have been a very frightening and unsettling time for them, suddenly becoming foreigners searching for a living in a strange land.

The gifts could have been useful now, if they had brought them with them. The gold, if in coin, could have paid their immediate expenses before Joseph found work, while the frankincense and myrrh would more likely have been kept for later use. Whatever happened, it's impossible to imagine that Mary and Joseph were not conscious of their huge value. Yet these gifts paled into insignificance when compared to the gift of their baby son, God's great gift to the world, Jesus. He was and is the greatest gift of all time; the gift that will never perish or tarnish or go out of fashion and, for those that receive Him, will grow in meaning and value forever.

Gillian Harris

The Smells of Jerusalem

The smell is the first thing that has always hit me in the 'Old City' of Jerusalem. It is distinctive to the city itself—not unpleasant, but hard to describe. Perhaps it is the perfumes, spices, coffee, candy, baklava, cooking, tobacco, fresh bread, incense and detergent all mingled together accumulating for generations along with centuries of human interaction, of living in a city as ancient as Jerusalem.

Then there are the sounds: children playing, youngsters coming out of school, traders in the souq trying to sell their wares. On the roof garden of St George's College, I attempted to say evening prayer on the day I arrived, only to have it interrupted by the Islamic call to prayer and the Jewish declaration of Sukkot. The cacophony could have been jarring, but instead it felt layered with meaning—a reminder of a city bursting with story, the cacophony of prayer speaking of the human longing to encounter God, the greatest storyteller.

I enjoyed talking to some of the traders in the old city. The gentleman who sold me freshly squeezed orange juice told me about his daughter's wedding; another spoke to me about the different accents he hears from England, which resulted in much laughter from us both! These conversations revealed how human connection transcends the grand narratives we often expect from pilgrimage.

Despite visiting many of the cathedral cities of the UK, having lived in and around London for over ten years, and travelled to cities such as Paris and Seoul; for me Jerusalem is very different. I have been here five times, and yet I feel as though I have not even begun to scratch the surface. The buildings and streets, the people—they all tell powerful stories and their desire to make sense of a complex world, I find it endlessly fascinating.

Yet Jerusalem is a place where I can spend time and clear my head. Despite—or perhaps because of—the chaos, the noise, the smell and the hustle and bustle of the old city, I find it oddly calming. I can pray, visit the holy sites and read Scripture afresh, allowing



The steps Jesus walked on while entering Jerusalem

God's Spirit to unpack those texts in ways I cannot seem to do anywhere else. The smells, the noise, the stories enrich the holiness of this place.

The danger of being a pilgrim in Jerusalem is that it can become the equivalent of visiting a Harry Potter theme park for Christians, a spiritual Disneyland offering entertainment dressed up as spirituality. I find it interesting that some people return from pilgrimage feeling empty or disappointed, and I always try to help folk explore their expectations and reasons for going. The Holy Land is a reminder that life is often raw and painful, and there is a need for authenticity. The incarnation points to a God who chooses to get his hands dirty, to share in the mess of this world to redeem it, to bring hope.

The moments that stand out for me are often ones of simplicity which usually catch me by surprise. During a weekday Eucharist at St George's Cathedral, one of the priests sang the 'words of institution' in Arabic—this was extraordinary, and I will never forget it. This resonated with my soul in a way that nothing else could, the Holy Spirit had plunged me into a deep well so I could be drenched in his grace and love.

What matters is recognising God's presence in the unexpected—in the warmth of human connection, in the sounds of another language which is unknown but strangely familiar, in the ordinary rhythms of a place hallowed by centuries of prayer and encounter, a

place where the Crucified God reaches out through the hustle and bustle of daily living, offering life in all its fullness. Perhaps Jerusalem is simply a mirror to the whole world.

The Rev. Christopher Ferris

*(who visited St George's College,
Jerusalem, in October)*

Wassailing: Carols and Folk Songs

Songs appropriate for different seasons have been a mainstay of folk music, as in love songs recalling courting in spring and summer for example. Winter, with its long, cold, dark nights, has had its own special songs, often with pagan origins celebrating the winter solstice, and pre-dating Christianity in these isles.

Music, being emotionally powerful, has always been employed to tell stories and pass on ideas through time, very often just aurally, carrying with it the danger, or even opportunities, of distortions. Christmas, carrying with it rich and powerful stories about various dramatic events and involving supernatural phenomena like stars and angels, lent itself as a theme for many songs which we now know as Carols. They became popular, if not essential, during Christmas celebrations, different parts of the country often having their own Carols or variations of some carols.

Look at any modern Carol book and you will see attributions to the 'county/region

of origin': from Cornwall through Devon, Sussex, Wessex, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire But it can be more complicated than that: an American woman on moving to Cornwall noted variations in carols *within* Cornwall, but this was shrugged away by locals as "Oh, that's the Boscastle version." or "That's the Marhamchurch version"!

In the puritanical days following Oliver Cromwell, folk songs and carols were frowned upon and went quiet. And then during the Industrial Revolution much of the folk culture of the country was destroyed. So we mostly owe our inheritance of Carols to people who, in Victorian times, brought about a revival. They travelled far and wide in the country, collecting and publishing folk songs and tunes buried in folk memory.

Notable among them are Cecil Sharp who led a major revival of the folk music tradition in this country, and Ralph Vaughn Williams, who was fascinated by folk tunes and 'arranged' them and made them popular as hymns and carols. Vaughn Williams and colleagues were acutely aware of the urgency of the need to collect folk music, which depended almost entirely on an aural tradition, noting that "every day some old village singer dies, with him half a dozen beautiful melodies are lost to the world for ever."

Often a tune discovered would be fitted up with Christian words: indeed no regular churchgoer would have failed to enjoy the beautiful melody of 'O Little



Town of Bethlehem'; for example. But who would have thought that the tune is that of a song 'The Ploughboy's Dream', which warns ploughboys of the dire consequences of mistreating their horses! Vaughn Williams it was, who included it in the English Hymnal, along with around 30 other folk tunes!

One function of folk songs was telling stories and there are many carols that do just that: While Shepherds Watched their Flocks, the Coventry Carol about Herod killing the children and The First Nowell about the wise men, all being examples of narratives of Biblical stories. But there are also legends and folklore presented in familiar carols, such as Good King Wenceslas, The Cherry Tree Carol and many others.

Carols naturally invite listeners to worship and adore Baby Jesus, but they also have a go at propounding theological issues. Then there are others: expressions of pure joy, celebration and, indeed, revelry! These lend themselves easily to community singing and are favourites of carol singers: Deck the Halls, We Wish

you a Merry Christmas (with singers demanding figgy pudding), The Twelve Days of Christmas (inviting energetic participation of singers and audiences) and so forth.

One shouldn't forget either the many carols we now sing to folk tunes borrowed from other countries, especially European countries—from Russia and Czech through to Germany and France. The tune of the popular Advent/Christmas Carol, 'The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came' is from a Basque folk carol.

I end with a mention of Wassailing, closely associated with Christmas – the name conjuring up images of drinking and merry making. 'Wassail' originates from Old English, meaning "be thou hale". So the drinking imagery ('Your Good Health', as we say!) is not far from reality. If you enjoy the rich abundance of carols that we now have, it is worth saying a 'thank you' to all the folk song collectors who opened up this huge treasure trove for us.

Anna Thomas-Betts

LANGLEY FREE CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SALE OF PRELOVED ITEMS &
NEWLY CRAFTED ITEMS

FATHER CHRISTMAS VISIT

£2 per child

Saturday 6th December 12-4pm



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

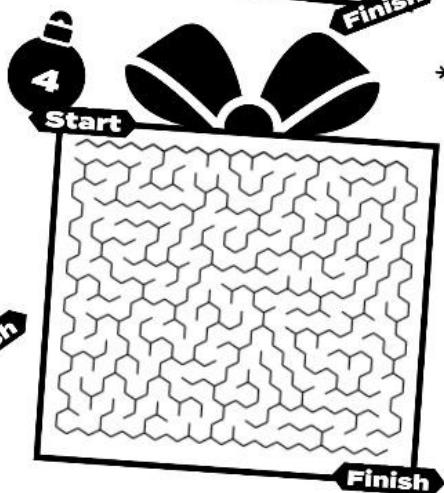
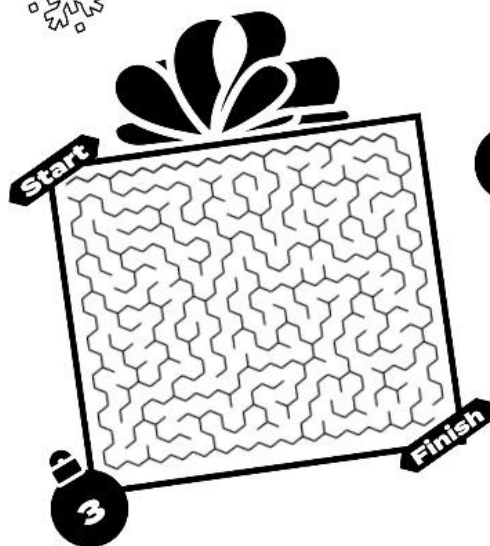
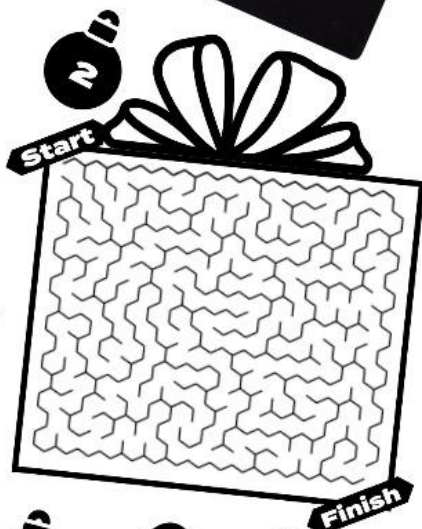
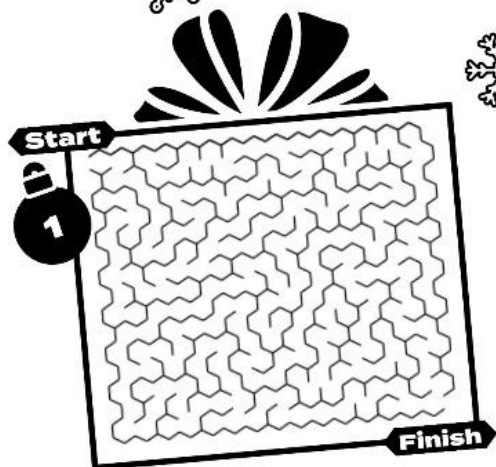
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Father Christmas photo and present £2 per child

Another Puzzle from Angus MacKenzie

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★★★★★ - Mr Robinson

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Parish Directory

St Mary's Church

www.langleymarish.com/stmary

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

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

Hall Hire: Mrs Joy Raynor 01753 676011 joyraynor@aol.com

Christ the Worker Church

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

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

Hall Lettings: Barbara Soko tel. 07894 535522 christthe worker@gmail.com

Holy Family Catholic Church

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

Parish Priest: Rev. Tony Brennan

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: bookings@langleyfree.co.uk