

August & September 2026

Around Langley



Boats on the Grand Union Canal, Langley

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

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(Editorial, continued from Page 3)

And finally, athletics, where the Commonwealth Games (which features other sports too) are coming to an end in Glasgow before Birmingham plays host to the European Championships at the start of September.



Anna's editorial in the last issue of a 'Decline of Civilisations'. This decline continues to be a cause for concern at home and abroad. Who, when you received that, expected that you would now have a new Prime Minister?

Whatever your political view, I am sure you join me in hoping that Andy Bunham's government brings stability at home, and that we see a speedy resolution of problems throughout the world.

I hope you enjoy this issue and the rest of the summer. Good wishes to all our readers for an enjoyable Summer..

Tony Randall

DISCLAIMER

Around Langley is happy to publish views of our readers whenever possible, but would like to point out that the views expressed in the magazine are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Editors, or the Churches in Langley.

Editorial

The heatwave that Anna wrote about in the editorial of our last issue of Around Langley has, with a couple of very brief breaks, continued leaving some areas with restricted water usage and many parks and gardens, and gardeners, wilting a little. I hope you are coping well.

Schools and other educational establishments have now closed for the summer break and many of you will be taking holidays during August and September. While we may be looking for some respite from the relentless sun, and water companies hope for rain to replenish reservoirs, we trust that the weather is good for your holiday, whether taken at home or abroad.



For those who love sport this summer is providing a very wide range of opportunities for watching, supporting, or for some participation.

Football, as always, gets the most attention with the World Cup and I have been very surprised by some people who are not normally interested in sport getting really excited, and then despondent at England's exit at the semi-final stage. There was some consolation in beating France to collect the Bronze medals.



At home, there have been international cricket competitions of different sorts, including a women's international T20 competition in which Australia demonstrated their supremacy, thoroughly beating England in the final.

Almost unnoticed, there is a Nations Cup rugby competition, the first part of which was played primarily in the Southern hemisphere with a second phase due throughout November, with return fixtures between the 12 countries followed by a complicated set of 'play offs'.

Then there was the Open golf championship just completed at Royal Birkdale, with Ryan Fox of New Zealand the winner, and the usual pleasure of Wimbledon for tennis fans.



(Continued on Page 2...)

News from Around Langley

Langley Community Coffee Shop



We were very pleased to have two interesting speakers at the end of May and in June.

Marilyn Fischer from Guide Dogs for the Blind told us about the history of Guide Dogs for the blind and about Dr Gerhard Stalling who founded the first guide dog school for blinded veterans in Oldenburg, Germany in 1916. In 1931, two British pioneers, Muriel Crooke and Rosamund Bond, trained the first four guide dogs in the UK. Today Guide Dogs is the world's largest breeder and trainer of guide dogs.

Then Tynna Phillips spoke to us about the work of Thames Valley Hospice. Tynna was, a former carer who then became a fundraiser. Thames Valley Hospice offers palliative care and end of life care during the last 12 weeks of a person's life. Their care is free, but the Hospice needs £44,000 a day to maintain its services. Only a third is funded by the Government and the rest comes from fundraising.

Besides our monthly speakers, the members regularly enjoy half an hour's exercise which is great fun and offered by Sam Leen who runs E L Fitness.

At the end of June we had our annual trip to the coast when we visited Worthing. It

was a hugely enjoyable day with the benefits of the sea air and the best fish and chips ever.

The Coffee Shop has continued to provide a venue for people to meet and socialize every Tuesday from 10am until 11.30am in St Joseph's Hall at the back of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Trelawney Ave, SL3 7UD. All are welcome.

The Coffee shop takes a break now, after its meeting on 21st July, and recommences on 8th September. On 29th September we have our Macmillan Coffee morning.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer. Contact 07859 750 508 for information.

Sheila Papali

Community Connect

Share a delicious free fish-and-chips lunch with friendly faces; be part of an uplifting and inclusive community; take a break from caring responsibilities; feel connected, appreciated, and supported.

It's free – just book your place and show up!



Venue: 1st Langley Scouts, Gosling Road, Langley, SL3 7TP

Time: 10am–2pm (Shows start at 11am sharp)

The upcoming dates are August 27th and September 24th.

To book your place:

[https://](https://www.sloughcrossroads.org.uk/community-connect-empowering-lives-together/)

www.sloughcrossroads.org.uk/

[community-connect-empowering-lives-together/](https://www.sloughcrossroads.org.uk/community-connect-empowering-lives-together/)

Or

Call: 01753 525796

Email: info@sloughcrossroads.org.uk

Pride in Place – Britwell and Langley Foxborough

Do you want to help make changes in Foxborough?

If you live or work in this area, Slough Borough Council is looking for people to join a Neighbourhood Board to help shape change and improvement in these two areas.

In March, the government announced their third tranche of Pride in Place funding – with Britwell and Foxborough, areas of Slough chosen by government based on their data, as two of the recipients.

Investment could be several million in the next few years and continue for up to 10 years. This will be administered by the

Council but is about long-term community-led change.

To support this, neighbourhood boards will be established that are charged with engaging the whole community. Boards should be made up by a majority of local residents and stakeholders including local politicians and should be chaired by an independent person.

Sonia Khan, the council's Director of Strategy, communities and engagement, said: "Pride in Place for Britwell and Foxborough is not a one off injection of cash, or about tackling one issue or problem. It is a long-term programme to be designed with local people and communities, building their capacity in very distinct areas, with sustainable change driven by local communities.



"We are hoping this programme helps open up new ways of working for the Council, to take a community-based approach that can be applied to other parts of the town as well, potentially unlocking investment for them as well."

This programme is separate from the Pride in Place Impact Fund, announced earlier this year which is providing £1.5 million to physical – known as capital – projects across the town.

For more information on how to be a part of the Board visit [Pride in Place - Britwell and Foxborough – Slough Borough Council](#)

Rebecca Curley

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A Surprise Package

In the April & May issue of Around Langley an interesting article asked if we knew how our streets came by their name, one intriguing reference being to Sutton Avenue.

Liz Jones responded to that in the last issue with some news about Turner Road and Sutton Avenue together with the area's links with professional gardens in the area.

A week ago, I received a very large and, at the time unexpected, package which turned out to be the deeds of the house that I have lived in for the last 50 years. The bank that held the deeds had informed me nearly a year ago that this would happen

SEEKING A TRUSTEE for 'The Almshouses' - 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 first 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 and it is not simply a case of just conserving historic buildings, but also responding to the changing needs of society and perhaps 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.langleyalms Houses.co.uk/>



The contents of the package brought me some unexpected and very interesting information.

When my late wife and I bought the house, built in 1931, we became its sixth owner, but the more interesting fact related to the use of the land before the house was built.

It was part of a large area stretching Eastwards from St Bernard's Convent, where the school is, along the north side of Langley Road as far as Middle Green Road, and with a northern boundary of the railway line.

The area was called *Downs Nursery* and was owned by members of the Sutton's Seed family from 1919 to 1931. My tentative attempt at googling to find more information was unsuccessful, but it may be that some important plants were

developed here by that illustrious firm, which was based in Reading then and for many years after. They are now in Torquay.

So there is the origin of Sutton Avenue. Downs Road, although it is just outside the area, could be like 'London Road' or 'Bath Road'; that is, it would be the road leading to and from the Downs Nursery site from Hillary Road and the land near the railway bridge that used to be locally called the 'gully'. If you have something to tell about where you live, please send it to us and we will be very happy to share it with our readers. There must be interesting stories about other parts of Langley.

Tony Randall

A Prayer for Reconciliation

(attributed to St Francis, whose 800th death anniversary will be on 3rd October)

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's hatred

let me bring your love.

Where there is injury,

your pardon, Lord

And where there's doubt,

true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace

Where there's despair in life, let me

bring hope

Where there is darkness, only light

And where there's sadness, ever joy.



News from LFC



Langley Free church,
situated on the bend
in Trelawney Avenue,
celebrates its 125th

Anniversary this year and will have its
celebratory tea and service on Saturday,
21st November. Ahead of that there will
be a summer BBQ on 29th August and
Around Langley readers are welcome to
both events.

We are also pleased to announce the
appointment of Maria Raithatha as
Pastor/Pioneer in September with an
expected induction service on Saturday
19th September. Maria is not yet ordained
and will be studying part time to become
an accredited Baptist minister for the
next 2 years. We will let you know what
her pioneer role in the community entails
when she is in post.

Another change at LFC is that, after
leading Oasis faithfully on Wednesday
afternoons for 17 years, Ann Portsmouth
is standing down.

Oasis as such will close but be replaced
by a Coffee & Chat time on Wednesdays,
meeting at 1-30pm for just that – a
friendly chat over a cup of coffee (or tea)
and a cake or biscuits. If you are free
please drop in. Our first meeting will be
on 16th September.

Tony Randall



Safer Langley Project – Shortlisted for an Award

Safer Langley, a partnership project
involving the Council, Thames Valley
Police, and the community, was
nominated for an award at the Local
Government Awards for which winners
were announced at the Grosvenor House
Hotel in London on Wednesday 10th June.

Safer Langley was one of 12 projects
shortlisted in the Community
Involvement category. The award
submission outlined all the partnership
work, successes and learning from the
project. It was created as part of the
Home Office's Clear Hold Build initiative.
It came after the death of two young
men, in an 18-month period, due to knife
crime. Langley had also been
experiencing increased violence linked to
organised crime activity, drug supply and
youth violence, with community
concerns about anti-social behaviour,
drug dealing and lack of police presence.

The project brought together a whole community to tackle the causes of harm, rebuild confidence, and to lower crime rates and perception of crime in Langley.

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. Youth engagement formed a core part with programmes such as The Hive, Global Grub and Body & Soul engaging more than 150 young people, including those with SEND, and providing support, structure and trusted relationships.

The results were great: knife crime fell by 56%, serious violence by 40% and youth anti-social behaviour by 29%. Lisa Spall, the Council's Community Safety Manager, said: "We were delighted to have been shortlisted as a finalist among other brilliant campaigns. Even though we didn't win on the night, we are proud of Safer Langley, the strong community links built, and the reduction in crime in Langley. "Residents have reported feeling safer ... and it has strengthened trust between the police, council and community. The successes could not have been achieved by any one organisation. It's the combined effort, sharing knowledge, resources, and a real commitment to change, which has made this initiative effective."

Langley Neighbourhood Action Group, set up to empower residents to lead on issues in their community, is a key part of the project, bringing residents and partners together. A future Around Langley article will cover their recent work on graffiti, one point of focus for them.

Mark Barnikel, Thames Valley Police Local Neighbourhood Inspector, said: "Safer Langley shows the real difference that can be made when policing is rooted in strong partnerships and genuine community engagement. By working closely with the Council, local organisations and residents, we've been able to tackle serious violence and organised crime while building trust and confidence.

"Since Safer Langley launched in April 2024, there has been a reduction in serious and violent crime in Langley, an increase in the reporting of incidents and intelligence sharing, and stronger community links."

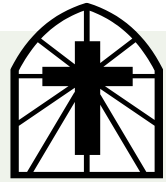
A wide range of organisations are part of Safer Langley.

The partnership has even inspired the launch of Safer Cippenham, trying to achieve similar outcomes for that part of Slough!.

Rebecca Curley

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Regular Weekly Service Times

Holy Family (Roman Catholic) (Trelawney Avenue)

We have 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 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

**LFC:Thursdays 7.30pm at church,
and mornings at a house.** (Contact
secretary@langleyfree.org.uk or phone
01753 540771)

Christ the Worker Mondays, 1 pm
(Contact: Audrey Boyles 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. **(No meetings: 3rd or 31st August.)**

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.

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!

Coffee and Chat at LFC, Wednesdays

1.30—3.00pm

First meeting: 16th September

Do come along if you would like a
chat or have something to share.

*(Please note that this replaces OASIS
sessions. Ann Portsmouth is standing
down as OASIS coordinator after 17
years of faithful service. Our gratitude
and good wishes go with her.)*

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 & Repair Shed Afternoons at LFC 12—4pm*

Bring your hobby along, or join Dave
in the shed if fixing things is of
interest, on the 3rd Saturday of every
month:

(August 15th and September 19th)

***NB In September The hours are**

11am—2pm.

Contact: Chris on 07789 838 500
(Suggest donation: £2 towards
refreshments)

Faith Matters

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians

Thessalonica was part of the Roman Empire, the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia, in Greece. Because of its strategic location it was an important trade and military hub connecting Europe and Asia. Paul, who was fluent in Greek, was keen to visit and spend some time there.

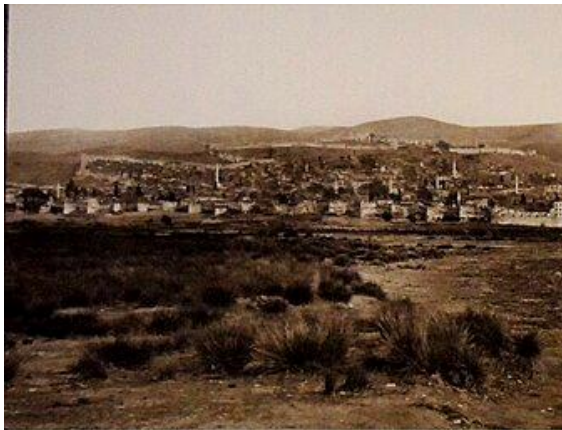
There was a sizeable Jewish population there, around a third of the population. According to Acts of the Apostles (Ch 17), when he did get there, Paul was virtually driven out of the area by some Jews who were jealous of his success in converting people to Christianity and eventually, just three weeks into his stay there, he had to escape to Athens, and from there to Corinth. It was through his companion Timothy, who was sent off to encourage and support the church in Thessalonica, that Paul kept in touch with them and sent letters to them.

There is some debate among scholars as to whether both the letters were written by Paul, but the Bible assumes that they were. Most of the letters of Paul were dictated to and written down by scribes, but signed by Paul. Both these two letters appear to follow the same pattern.

Unlike in the letters we considered in the last four issues of *Around Langley*, there is no overriding theme here related to the Torah and the question of Gentile Christians having to obey the Jewish law including circumcision.

In the first letter Paul's pastoral concern for the Thessalonians is a major theme. From the start, he expresses his gratefulness for their faith and love and commends them for accepting the gospel as the word of God, at the same time grieving for the pain that had been inflicted on them by their own people, as indeed had happened in Judaea. As he develops the letter, although he talks about his longing to visit them, he is comforted to have the reports from Timothy concerning their faith.

Paul reminds them of his own conduct while he was with them, characterised by



hard work, holiness and righteousness, thus pointing to the integrity and dedication required in ministry. He urges them also to live in a way that pleases God, emphasizing sanctification and avoiding sexual immorality, loving one another and leading quiet lives, doing manual work. This is a segue into the last section of the letter, where he talks about the second coming of Jesus.

The Day of the Lord, when Jesus returns, Paul says (even as Jesus himself did in his life time) will be a surprise, at an unexpected time, like a thief coming in the night. So Paul emphasises the need for vigilance, wearing 'faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet'.

The second letter also starts with greetings from himself and Silas and Timothy, and his gratitude to God for their faith and perseverance in spite of persecution. Notably, in this letter he brings in ideas of God's righteous judgement and the Day of the Lord to

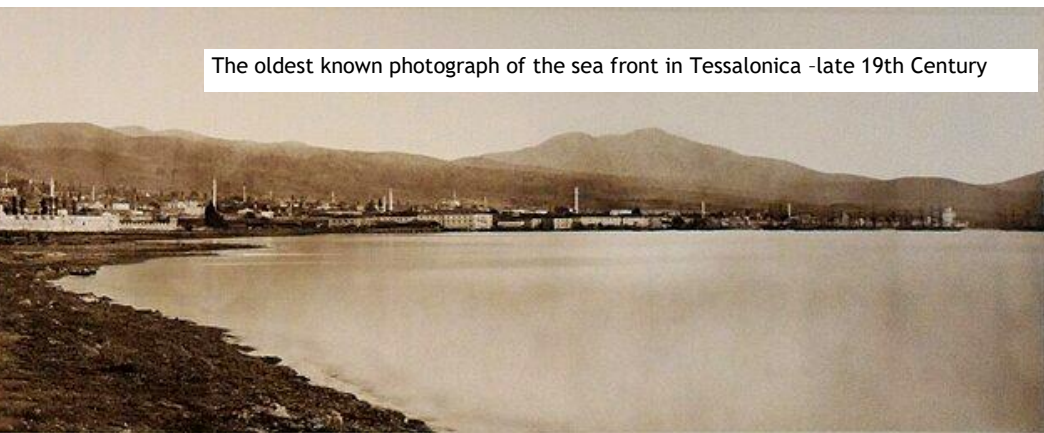
come even in the first two chapters. Their current suffering, he says, makes them worthy of the Kingdom of God, so he urges continued endurance and perseverance.

He warns them against the Enemy, a 'man of wickedness', who can mislead them by false prophecies and deception. A good part of this short letter is devoted to Paul asking them to stand firm against this Evil One and be faithful to the gospel message that has delivered to them.

In the final part, he returns to themes from the first letter, warning them against idleness as well as the need to live a holy life. At the conclusion of this letter, it is interesting that Paul talks about discipline within the church community and how to deal with people who are disobedient—by giving them friendly advice and treating them like a family member.

The letter finishes as other Pauline letters, with a prayer for peace, a

The oldest known photograph of the sea front in Thessalonica -late 19th Century



personal greeting written in his own hand (as a mark of authenticity), and a blessing for everyone. The beginning and end of Paul's letters are a reminder to us that they were letters written to specific groups of people, with their own problems and preoccupations, although he may also have covered a lot of theology in them. While we now value the theological thinking and look to the letters for enlightenment and inspiration, it is good to bear in mind the specific circumstances of the origin of the letters.

Anna Thomas-Betts

A Healing House of Prayer

I have recently discovered a devotional book, titled as above, on my bookshelf and been using it for the last few days. I didn't know I had it but have found it very interesting and helpful so far.

The book, described by the author Morris Maddocks as a selection of daily readings, was written in 1986 as a companion to Leslie Wetherhead's book, written 30 years earlier 'A Private House of prayer' at the request of publishers Hodder & Stoughton.

In His Eyes

*I could see it in his eyes,
Seeing my heart,
Knowing what I loved...my wealth, my position, my power.*

*I could see it in his eyes,
Perceiving my soul [1],
Inviting me to break the hold, to give it all away*

*I could see it in his eyes,
Just like the sun [2],
Illuminating my disappointment, running away*

*I can see it his eyes,
Softly in love,
Showing me sacrifice with arms wide, questioning me again.*

David Randall

[1] - after William Blake

[2] - after William Shakespeare

In this book, Maddocks, an Anglican priest and bishop, who had become passionately concerned with the Christian ministry of healing, wrote a daily set of readings placed in various parts of the house. These cover the House Entrance, Therapy Room, Library, Music Room, Quiet Room, Living Room, and Door into the World. A rather more elaborate house than most of us live in, and he gave suggestions on the use of each of the areas before putting selected readings, quotations, songs, prayers, and reflections to fit his theme for each day.

I may have found it difficult to find the time to use this devotional book effectively in earlier years during my working life, and I still need to exercise self-discipline to find the time to use it properly, but it is proving very helpful so far in developing a healthy soul.

Morris Maddox was at some time advisor to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on healing, and was instrumental in setting up the Acorn Christian Healing Trust in 1983. The Trusts continued to operate in hubs across the country until earlier this year when it was absorbed into the work of Go Health (the Guild of Health and St Raphael).

Tony Randall

1st September 1939

(Last two verses)

*All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie,
The romantic lie in the brain
Of the sensual man-in-the-street
And the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the
State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.*

*Defenceless under the night
Our world in stupor lies;
Yet, dotted everywhere,
Ironical points of light
Flash out wherever the Just
Exchange their messages:
May I, composed like them
Of Eros and of dust,
Beleaguered by the same
Negation and despair,
Show an affirming flame.*

W H Auden

Langley Free Church

BBQ

29th AUGUST 2026

12^{PM} — 4^{PM}

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01

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COMFORT

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02

KOREAN

Sizzle & Spice from Seoul

Meet your new obsession: our signature Korean Bibimbap. A vibrant, colorful bowl of perfectly seasoned vegetables, your choice of protein (Chicken, Beef, or Tofu), and a sunny-side-up egg, all brought together with a signature kick of spicy gochujang.

03

FESTIVE SPECIAL

Celebrate Onam with Us!

Mark your calendars for a grand festive feast. Our special Onam Sadhya is returning from 26th–29th August.

PRE-BOOKINGS ARE OPENING SOON—DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS TRADITIONAL LEAF FEAST!

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Langley Marish Team Ministry

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Around Langley

Would love your help if you can

- Help with distribution of the magazine
- write articles for us—news, features, creative work
- Make a donation
- Generate advertisement income

Contact one of the editors if you can help! Contact details on Page 2.

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
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

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

Christ the Worker Church

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

Team 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: Father Tony Brennan

Deacon: Rev. Graham Jones

Hall Hire: Mrs Lisa Chong

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