

November 2020

Around Langley



The War Memorial

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

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Contacts

Editorial & Enquiries

Anna Thomas-Betts
01753 822013
a.thomasbetts
@gmail.com

Advertisements

Richard Shircore
07943 404388
richard.shircore
@btinternet.com

Layout & Advert

Design

Roo Kanis-Buck rookanis
@btinternet.com

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Michael Day - 01753
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Remembering—the Good and the Bad...

As I write this, we have just passed October 18th, this year's Anti-Slavery Day. Naturally one's mind goes to the events of the recent past—the Black Lives Matter protests, the toppling of statues of people involved with the slave-trade, renaming of buildings and venues, and so forth. Then we move smoothly from the evils of slave-trade to the evils of imperialism and colonialism. Of course, no person with a modicum of decency or sense of morality would dream of trying to justify some of the historical legacies that humankind has inherited.

My concern is about finding the best way forward: it is not the past that should haunt us—history is what it is, and there is nothing we can do to change it, except look at it with fresh eyes and from all perspectives, so that we see as full a picture as possible. Indeed, I am also left wondering whether we are not, all of us, benefitting from that past, because it is the profits of slavery that has built many of the structures we now own. For example, because Bristol's Colston Hall has been renamed now, do those of us who go to events there stop enjoying the privileges bought by profits from the slave trade?

What concerns me even more is the fact that there are people who still, centuries later, feel that they are somehow superior to the descendants of the victims and survivors of the slave trade; and perhaps on a slightly smaller scale, there are people still around who feel that descendants of once-subjugated peoples are to be looked down upon. Then there is the terrible evils of modern-day slavery, and the exploitation of desperately poor people, that all decent people should be fighting against. It is the present and the future that should concern us: how will the generations to come judge us? (See box below.)

Finally, as Slough enters Tier 2, let us all act responsibly and stay safe and well.

Anna Thomas-Betts

There was a time when...

- *** *Slavery was legal*
- *** *Apartheid was legal*
- *** *Withholding the vote from women was legal*
- *** *The death penalty was legal*
- *** *The imprisonment of gay men was legal*

- *** *Beating a child was legal*
- *** *Paying a woman less than a man was legal*

Never assume legality equals morality

Steve Chalke on Twitter

News from Around Langley



Langley Neighbourhood Forum

Please see their website, www.langleyforum.org/ for news and updates.

Langley Community Coffee Shop



Wexham Park Golf Club is still keen to have our bookings for a Christmas Lunch on 1st December, so if anyone would like to go, please contact me on 01753 541165 or 07805 335086. The lunch will be socially distanced and will be cancelled if there is a higher risk of infection. The meal will be subsidized for

friends of LCCS so the cost of a two course meal will be £10.50 and a three course meal will cost £15.95. I need to confirm numbers soon with a maximum of thirty places, so please get in touch sooner rather than later if you are interested. I wish you all a safe autumn.

Sheila Papali

Langley Remembrance Sunday goes virtual!

The Covid 19 pandemic means there will not be a traditional Remembrance Service in Langley Memorial Park on 8th November this year. Nor will there be a parade from Christ the Worker Church.

In its place there will be a service at 11am at the Memorial with a limited number of (socially distanced) participants. The service will be shown

• LANGLEY REMEMBERS •

ONLINE

Remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020 from 10:45 a.m.
Please join us ONLINE in remembering those who died in WW1, WW2 & other conflicts

**Access the service via our "Langley Remembers" Facebook Page
OR "Langley Remembers" Youtube Channel**

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

on the 'Langley Remembers' YouTube channel, which can also be accessed via the 'Langley Remembers' Facebook page. Local people are encouraged to join in by viewing it at home.

The key participants at the service will be the Clergy and invited representatives of Slough Borough Council, Uniformed Statutory Organisations and uniformed youth groups.

Personal and family tributes and wreaths are all welcome. The organisers ask that these are laid **after** the main service, from 11.30am on 8th November, or on Remembrance Day itself, Wednesday 11th November. However please keep to guidance to reduce the risk of infection, especially by maintaining social distance of two metres from others who are laying tributes.

This disruption to the social fabric of our community is very sad. However, we must remain optimistic and believe and pray that this disappointment is for this year only and that next year we can be together again.

Richard Shircore

Life of a Funeral Director during Covid-19

[When we think of keyworkers who have soldiered on throughout the lockdown, Funeral Directors are not necessarily the first profession that springs to mind. But a moment's reflection will show clearly how important their role has been. In the

sections below, Robert Lodge, the Chairman of Lodge Brothers, gives us a little insight into life and work on the frontline during what has been potentially the most challenging time of his career.]

Initial Fears These are unprecedented times, and for most of us in our generation, it's the first time we have had to respond to a worldwide crisis and adapt so quickly and so often, with government guidelines sometimes changing on a daily basis. The UK would have ground to a halt without our keyworkers turning up for work every day, and as Funeral Directors we also were really on the frontline.

At first, whilst the medical information was being established, we kept a close eye on any important changes that could affect our working practices, so that we could adapt and continue our work in changing circumstances. During those first few weeks we were extremely concerned about the effect of the contagious nature of the disease and our potential exposure to it whilst caring for families—both prior to, and on the day of, the funeral—which could have resulted in our not having sufficient staff available to carry out all our duties.

Changes that were necessary Nevertheless, we had to adapt the services we provide. When restrictions were imposed, sometimes it was not possible for funeral arrangers to meet the bereaved in person, and arrangements were being made entirely by telephone.

This was a real challenge for staff who were used to reaching out physically. Indeed, they are experts at comforting the bereaved face-to-face, holding their hands physically and emotionally through the process. But I am so grateful for, and proud of, the hard work and loyalty of my staff. Our branch funeral arrangers are our ambassadors – trained to the highest levels in funeral administration – and they have risen to the challenge and our client reviews prove that!

Impact on the cost of a funeral We were aware that through the lockdown and furlough, many local families' incomes were suffering. As a result, we lowered the cost of our funerals by as much as £500 for about three months at

the height of the pandemic.

The impact on personal life Naturally, one's instinct is to protect one's family over and above everything else. In circumstances like these though, as funeral directors in a pandemic, we did not have the luxury of choice when so many people were depending on us.

I am fortunate to work alongside several of my family members. Hopefully, over the coming months we will all take time to reflect on the most important things in life and make sure that we have extra time for family and friends.

Robert Lodge

(Funeral Director, Lodge Brothers)

Langley Free Church Unwraps Christmas

Many of you will know that Langley Free Church invite Year 6 schoolchildren into the church over a week before Christmas and again before Easter. The aim is to explain to the children what these Christian events are really celebrating so that they understand that much of what we do on these occasions has little to do with the events. We try to remove 'the fluff' from the real significance. Usually about 500 children come in groups of 30 or 60 and enjoy a time of learning and fun.



This year, we cannot hold such an event for obvious reasons, but we plan to bring this virtually to year 6 pupils from schools who will be registering. It will not give the same experience as is usual but we feel it is still important to go ahead. We hope the children will still be able to engage with the message it will bring. None of us knows whether we will be able to meet up at Christmas but what we do know is that we can still celebrate the birth of Jesus.



English as She is Spoke(n!)

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and
dough?

Others may stumble, but not you,
On hiccough, thorough, lough and
through?

Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps?
Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.

And dead: It's said like bed, not bead
For goodness sake don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(They rhyme with suite
and straight and debt).

A moth is not a moth in mother,
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,

And then there's dose and rose and lose—
Just look them up— and goose and
choose.

And cork and work and card and ward,
And font and front and word and sword.

And do and go and thwart and cart –
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five!

(Unknown source)

Fact or Fiction?

(Answers: Page 16)

1. Ecclesiasticus is part of the Old Testament.
2. Cain and Abel were the two sons of Adam and Eve.
3. Oliver Cromwell and Thomas Cromwell were not related.
4. Zibia was the mother of a King of Judah.
5. Gideon tore open the jaws of a lion that came to attack him, and later found a beehive, and honey, in the carcass.
6. Mahatma Gandhi was Indira Gandhi's father-in-law.
7. Your eyeballs grow larger as you grow older.

Did you know...?

Crime rates in Sweden increased during the pandemic, except for pick-pocketing - which went down ...

... thanks to social distancing!



Alternative Energy

As we approach the World Climate Change Summit in Glasgow (1st-12th November) it is worth spending a moment reflecting on the fact that most of the greenhouse gases are produced by our way of generating power, be it for transport, domestic or industrial use. There are very few scientists who do not now acknowledge that the burning of fossil fuel is the main culprit in the production of the greenhouse gas, CO₂. So alternative ('renewable') energy sources are the holy grail of climate scientists now.

Some historical perspective: in the 70s, industrialised nations faced a crisis when the oil-producing countries of the Gulf region decided to cut production and raise the price of oil enormously. All of a sudden the search for alternative energy sources became urgent. Huge amounts of money were spent on research into geothermal energy, solar cells, wind and tidal energy and so on: whether any of these could be utilised in ways that made economic sense. We were not quite so aware of greenhouse emissions then, so coal was also considered a blessing.

It was around that time that I got involved in research into geothermal energy, as there was plenty of research funding available. Our research group was involved with exploration for potential geothermal sites in Britain, while engineering departments had funding to develop exploitation techniques. Our job

was to identify areas of high geothermal potential and we provided much of the data for the Heatflow Map of Britain at that time. It is well-known that geothermal energy is most appropriate in countries like Italy and Iceland which are prone to volcanoes and are geologically unstable. So its potential for Britain is very much lower. We used to be asked, 'Will it ever be viable?' The answer was always, 'It depends on the price of coal!' Economic viability was indeed the uppermost consideration in those days.

In the event, it was not coal that came to Britain's rescue, but North Sea Oil and Gas, when we suddenly found that we had a relatively cheap and abundant source of fuel. Also, the Gulf countries started producing oil at a lower price: the world breathed a collective sigh of relief and continued to burn oil and gas, as well as coal!

Several decades have passed since then, and now that we are all acutely aware of the dangers of global warming, we are looking to alternative energy sources again, even if it costs more. I have always felt that there is some moral satisfaction in using solar power to generate electricity! After all, it is the energy from the sun, when trapped by greenhouse effect, that produces global warming. All the same, geothermal energy is always available to us, if there is the will to exploit it. More on that another time!

Anna Thomas-Betts

More puzzles for Lockdown ...

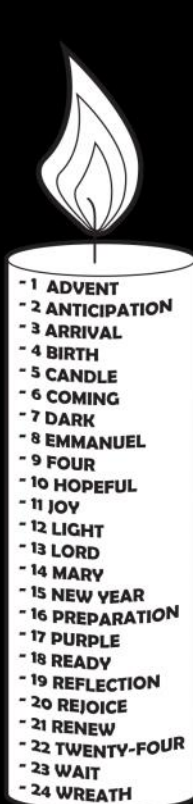
(Devised by Angus MacKenzie. Answers on page 16.)

R R K D K A D R K A R
 R A D R K R D R K A A
 K O R K R K D K A K O
 R R A L K D A R R G A
 K O D A R I D A K A K O
 D K A H A R D D T A K
 R R K D K A D R K A R
 D R K A A K R D R K A

Block out all the letters from the word DARK and reveal



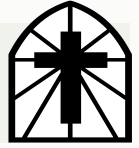
Can you spot the 5 differences in these pictures?



K	E	L	P	R	U	P	J	O	V	W	L
A	R	T	N	E	V	D	A	N	A	R	C
R	N	M	E	F	O	U	R	I	V	E	P
R	P	T	C	L	R	Z	T	P	D	A	R
I	R	L	I	E	M	A	R	V	A	T	E
V	G	H	J	C	A	N	D	L	E	H	P
A	E	T	Y	T	I	U	K	I	R	L	A
L	O	R	D	I	J	P	R	G	S	U	R
G	N	I	M	O	C	T	A	H	X	F	A
S	C	B	R	N	O	J	D	T	H	E	T
W	E	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	I	P	I
B	Q	U	R	A	E	Y	W	E	N	O	O
R	U	O	F	V	T	N	E	W	T	H	N

Can you find the 2 missing words from this wordsearch?

Regular Weekly Service Times



Holy Family (Roman Catholic) (Trelawney Avenue)

Sunday	10.00am	Webinar service
	5.00pm	Mass
Mon, Wed	11.00am	Mass or Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday	NO SERVICE	
Friday	11.00am	Mass or Service of the Word and Communion
Saturday	5.00pm	Mass

(Please contact holyfamilylangley@yahoo.co.uk if you need any further details.)

Langley Free Church (Baptist) (Trelawney Avenue)

Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship (Also available on YouTube)
2 nd Sunday of month	10.30am	Holy Communion (Also available on YouTube)

St Mary's (St Mary's Road)

Sunday	8.00am	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
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St Francis of Assisi (London Road)

Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion or Morning Worship (also available on Zoom)
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Christ the Worker (Parlaunt Road)

Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion or Morning Worship
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All group activities in our churches are suspended until further notice, but church opening times for public worship are given above. See also Parish Directory on p. 19 for contact details for churches.

Looking ahead to Advent & Christmas

With renewed restrictions coming into force around the country and little prospect of any easing this year, the churches in Langley have had to rethink their plans for the approaching seasons of Advent and Christmas. In place of large festive gatherings we will be holding small-scale events in our church buildings and making use of technology to share these with a wider audience.

Here is a rough outline of what is proposed



Sunday 29th November, 6.30 pm, Music & Readings for Advent at St Mary's

There will be limited space in church, so please contact one of the clergy (p. 19) if you would like to attend. The service can also be watched on Zoom; details of access will be posted on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ParishofLangley>.

Sunday 6th December, 4 pm, Christingle Service on Zoom at St Mary's

Again, see our Facebook page for access and for how we would like families and children to participate in the event.



Langley Free Church will be holding **Advent services on Sundays, at the normal service time of 10.30am, starting Sunday 29th November.** Social distancing will be in effect and so contact details will have to be given for 'track and trace'. Everyone will be asked to sit in family 'bubbles' and facemasks will need to worn at all times.

At Christmas, there will be a mixture of small 'live' services (no singing, I'm afraid) and online events at all the churches. Details of how to access them will be published in the December edition of *Around Langley* and will of course be made available nearer the time on the websites of the churches.

Rev. Robin Grayson

Faith Matters

Remembrance

On the second Sunday of November every year, at 11am, we remember those service men and women who died in two World Wars and other conflicts. People who give up their lives for others, at any time or place deserve to be remembered, their deeds celebrated. Their valour and love serve as an ideal for us to cherish and to emulate. Like the ability to imagine, to reflect and to dream, the power to remember enriches our lives. It gives us an opportunity to learn from our mistakes and to feel empowered by our achievements.

Remembrance has a pivotal role in salvation history. The liturgy read each Passover by devout Jews has a quote from Deuteronomy: "Remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life." (Dt 16:3). For Jews, Passover is more than a mere 'memorial', or a commemoration of a historical event: it is the renewal of their covenant with God. The *seder* or Passover meal, therefore, possesses the power to effect what it signifies: that is, the covenant is being extended in time.

The specific meaning of the word 'Remembrance' or 'memorial' in

the New Testament, especially in its use in the account of the Last Supper, cannot be understood without reference to the Jewish background of the Covenant and, within it, the meaning of 'sacrifice'. Our Christian faith tells us that after the repeated infidelities of his chosen people, God first promises, and then sends, his own Son to become one of his people, to reconcile them with Him. This is accomplished in a 'New and Everlasting Covenant' in which Jesus is the 'sacrifice'. God in Jesus Christ extends this offer of salvation from that made to the Jewish people to the whole of humanity. This is indeed the Good News.

The sacrifice in the New Covenant is Jesus himself, 'the Lamb of God', showing his love for the Father and for us: "I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me" (Jn 6: 38). When celebrating the eucharist as an act of remembrance, it is



important to note that the essence of the sacrifice of Jesus was his self-offering to the Father and to us, and not just his death on the cross. Christian tradition and piety have rightly emphasized Christ's passion and death as his sacrifice. But Christ's sacrifice or self-offering includes the incarnation, life, death, resurrection as well as his interceding for us before the Father till the end of time (Romans 8:34; Heb. 7:24-25). His passion and death emphasize the extent of his love. His resurrection signifies the acceptance by the Father of the sacrifice, and makes the sacrifice complete (Phil. 2:6-8). What Jesus freely gave up by becoming a man was not his divine nature but the glory to which his divine nature entitled him, during his life on earth. Jesus only occasionally gave glimpses of his divine nature, for example at the transfiguration on Mt Tabor (Mt 17: 1-8).

The appreciation of the meaning of Covenant and sacrifice in the Jewish based context sheds light on the way the early Church understood the meaning of Remembrance as meant by Jesus: "Do this in memory of me". At the celebration of the Eucharist the priest addresses God as Father: "Let your Holy Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy so that they may become the body and blood of Christ" (R.C. Liturgy). (Anglican and Protestant churches have a subtly different understanding of the sacrament: it is done in memory of Christ's death and resurrection, and the bread and the wine

'become *to us*' the body and blood of Christ.) The words of consecration thus bring Jesus present to us in the act of self-offering, as well as making us present to the unique and unrepeatable self-offering of Christ.

I find the word "Remembrance" more expressive than 'memorial' as it 'remembers' us, i.e. unites us, and makes us present to the one unrepeatable Christ event. In the words of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Commission (1978) it makes us "enter(ing) into the movement of his (Christ's) self-offering". This act of remembrance urges participants, together with the priest who acts in the person of Christ, to offer themselves to the Father through the only mediator, Jesus: The Eucharist is the whole Christian story in a nutshell, "the mystery of faith".

Alfred Agius

Charles Wesley and his Hymns

If you are used to the choral tradition of churches, you will realise that 'those Wesleys' are everywhere: Charles, Samuel, Samuel Sebastian, John ... The author with most hymns attributed to in the New English Hymnal (NEH) is Charles Wesley (along with J. M. Neale). John Wesley with whom Charles worked closely, was his older brother, and the founder of the Methodist church.

Charles (b. 1707) was the youngest son of an Anglican clergyman, was educated at Westminster school and Christ Church Oxford, where he was ordained as an Anglican priest, as also was John. The small group they belonged to were nicknamed 'Methodists' at University because of the methodical way they studied the Bible in detail and led a disciplined lifestyle.

After ordination Charles worked for a year in Georgia, the American colony, but that was not a success. On his return to England he experienced a conversion when he felt called to spread the Gospel to ordinary people. This was also the beginning of his life as a hymn-writer, realising the power of poetry (and his hymns are highly poetical) to speak to people. Hymns were his medium for expounding doctrines such as the Holy

Spirit sanctifying us and dwelling within our hearts, human response to God, the fallen nature of humanity and so forth.

He was a prolific hymn-writer, with more than 6,000 hymns to his name. Some of his best known and best-loved hymns include "Love divine, all loves excelling"; "Hark, the herald angels sing"; "Christ the Lord is risen today"; "Soldiers of Christ, arise"; "Rejoice, the Lord is king"; and "Jesu, lover of my soul."

One can only guess at how many times "Love Divine" has been sung at weddings! And Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without singing 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'; nor would Easter be Easter without the resounding Alleluia of 'Jesus Christ is risen today'..!

Famous composers have set Charles Wesley's hymns to music : for example

Stainer, and Handel to whom we owe the music of 'Rejoice the Lord is King'. Those without access to a copy of the NEH might wish to look up these hymns on <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/NEH1985>.

His musical legacy is immense. His family was also prolific in church music: his son Samuel Wesley was an organist and a



Window depicting Bach, Wesley and Handel in Kings Heath Methodist Church , Birmingham
Photo: Polyphilo

musician in his own right, while his grandson Samuel Sebastian Wesley was a well-known composer of choral music that is popular to this day.

For all that, Charles is known as the 'Lesser Wesley', John being the founder of the Methodist Church. They collaborated on many things, for example in preaching 'outside the church buildings', but Charles was not comfortable with John's renunciation of much of Anglicanism. He continued to be an Anglican priest all his life, serving in Marylebone in the latter years of his life.

Wesley's Advent Hymns As we approach Advent, it is worth noting two well-loved hymns we sing in this season: 'Come, thou long-expected Jesus' and 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending'. These are excellent examples of Wesley using hymns to expound theology in a way that is accessible to 'ordinary' people. In both the different aspects of Advent are brought out.

We often forget that Advent is more than just a 'preparation for Christmas'. But

just as important is the message of Advent about the second coming, when Jesus will come in glory, as our Judge. 'Lo, he comes with clouds descending is very much about that: 'God appears, on earth to reign; 'Every eye... shall the true Messiah see'; 'Saviour, ... claim the Kingdom for thine own'.

'Come thou long expected Jesus' invokes the past, the present and the future with phrases such as : 'born a child and yet a king'; 'Now thy gracious kingdom bring'; and, 'By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts'.

Anna Thomas-Betts

The Advent Collect: *Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.*

So you miss singing hymns in lockdown?

Did you know that hymn-singing during worship in Anglican churches only became officially accepted in 1820? Congregational churches were the first to produce a hymnal under Isaac Watts in early 19th Century, but it was the Wesley brothers, in the Methodist Church, who put hymn-singing firmly in the picture as part of worship, in mid-19th Century. The Oxford movement then encouraged translations of medieval hymns and introduced plainsong melodies and paved the way to the first hymnal, *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1861. The rest, as they say, is history!



Answers to the puzzles on page 11



The Five Differences between the two pictures

The words missing in Wordsearch: REJOICE & RENEW
Removing D, A, R and K gives you LIGHT!

Fact or Fiction?

1. Ecclesiasticus is from the Apocrypha, unlike Ecclesiastes, part of the OT.
2. Cain and Abel were two sons of Adam and Eve., but not the only two.
3. Oliver Cromwell was the great grandson of Thomas Cromwell's sister.
4. Zibia was the mother of Jehoash, a King of Jerusalem.
5. No, it was Samson, who tore open the jaws of a lion that came to attack him, and later found a beehive, and honey, in the carcass.
6. No, Indira Gandhi was the daughter of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and her husband was Feroze Gandhi, no relation of the Mahatma.
7. Eyeballs stay the same size throughout one's life.

Would you like to sponsor or support **Around Langley**?
If so, you may like to give £5 a year towards the costs of the magazine. Please make a donation at any of the sponsoring churches.



Andrew & Robert Lodge with their eco-friendly hybrid funeral fleet

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St Mary's Church

www.langleymarish.com/stmary

Rev. Robin Grayson 01753 542068 r.j.grayson@btinternet.com

Curate: Rev. Sue Lepp 07930 520562 revdsuelepp@gmail.com

Hall Lettings: Simona de Gregorio. tel. 07968 408813

st.marys.church.centre@gmail.com

St Francis Church

www.langleymarish.com/stfrancis

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

Licensed Lay Minister: Mr Bill Birmingham 01753 548646 billbirmingham@gmail.com

Christ the Worker Church

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

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

Hall Lettings: Simona de Gregorio. tel. 07968 408813 ctw.langleym@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Mrs Dalletta Reed 01753 541042 langleyymarish@gmail.com

Holy Family Catholic Church

www.holyfamily.co.uk

Parish Priest: Canon Kevin O'Driscoll

Deacon: Rev. Graham Jones

Hall Hire: Mrs Maria Boland

All above contactable at 01753 543770 holyfamilylangley@yahoo.co.uk

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

Langley Free Church

www.langleyfreechurch.org.uk

Pastor Rev. John Bernard 01753 473219 pastor@langleyfree.org.uk

Hall Hire: 01753 540771 bookings@langleyfree.org.uk

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