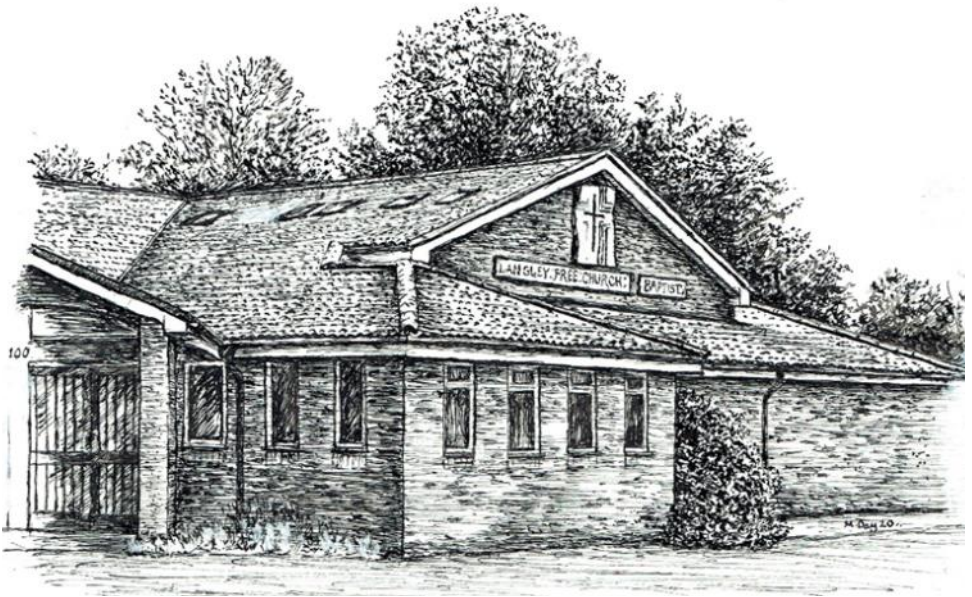


September 2020

Around Langley



Langley Free Church

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

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'While 'infection' is on our minds, here is something that you can catch even when socially distanced! This poem is often attributed to Spike Milligan, who liked the old poem so much that he published it in one of his books.



Smiling is Infectious



*Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.*

*I passed around the corner
And someone saw my grin.
When he smiled, I realized
I'd passed it on to him!*



*I thought about that smile,
Then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
Could travel round the earth.*

*So if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
And get the world infected!*

"Don't Panic..." or "We're doomed..."?

It is difficult during this pandemic to avoid mood swings between the two sentiments expressed by these immortal lines from Dad's Army. Although we all know that panicking does not help, we can't help wondering how we, humankind, can avoid possible catastrophe.

Human history is riddled with rises and falls of civilisations and there is no reason why we should be immune from that cycle. The challenge is about managing the change. When we no longer commute long distances daily to our workplaces, when the nation copes with large scale unemployment at least in the short term, when matters of life and death are determined by inequalities within society, the way we evolve will decide whether we end up with a stable, fairer society or one of chaos and anarchy.

On this 75th anniversary of the publication of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, the famous quote from the book, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others", remains true of humankind, locally, nationally and internationally. We hope and pray that our governments will have the wisdom and foresight to lead us through the complexities of recovery from the pandemic into a better world.



When the churches were completely closed, we missed the singing, the flower arrangements, the preparations for special festivals, the social gatherings and so forth, as well as worship. With the partial re-opening of churches, sad to say, we are still not able to resume our customs and traditions. In September most churches would have celebrated Harvest Festival, a universal custom among many communities. And faiths. Certainly Anglicans will remember lustily singing 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'We plough the fields and scatter(!)'; and of

course all the flowers, fruit and vegetables that decorated the churches. As we gather in our harvests, let us continue to remember those whose crops were destroyed by floods, or droughts or locusts in different parts of the world and do what we can to help.

Anna Thomas-Betts

News from Around Langley



Langley Neighbourhood Forum

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

Langley Community Coffee Shop



Greetings to all the friends of Langley Community Coffee Shop. Who would believe that such a disaster as Covid 19 would have changed our whole way of life. I hope you are all keeping well and managing to have some exercise. It is now six months on since we last met and still don't know when it will be possible to meet again. The library facilities will no longer be available to us but we have been offered a home at the Holy Family Catholic Church in the hall at the back of the church. Of course, it won't be cosy like the library because the hall is so much larger but it's the people that matter, and I am sure people will be glad to have a place where they can meet. The library facilities are being taken over by My Council who will no longer have their room in Slough High Street.

Last year in December we held our Christmas party at Wexham Park Golf

Club and I have been contacted again about a possible function on 1st December as long as this is still possible. I shall book the venue as I am sure there will be enough people interested in going. I wish you all well and let's pray for an early vaccine solution.

Sheila Papali.

Lighthouse 'LIVE' Langley



Readers will remember that due to the coronavirus Lighthouse Langley made the sad decision not to run this year and joined the other Lighthouses in supporting Lighthouse LIVE!

From Monday 27th to Friday 31st July 2020, we were able to bring Lighthouse to participants' houses 'LIVE' online and full of everything we all love about Lighthouse.

To achieve this the Lighthouse Central team worked with Simon Parry from AllStars Kids Club who built a full TV set in an empty Amersham office, a space generously donated for this purpose by Gray Grant, CEO of The Entertainer.

Primary school aged children across the UK joined in with Lighthouse Live for a fun packed hour in the morning and afternoon, hosted by Joanna Adeyinka-Burford, from CBeebies, and Pete Sheath.

Lighthouse Live copied the Lighthouse experience as closely as possible, with a live TV show packed with lots of fun, singing, dancing, Bible stories, crafts, messy games, challenges and a few surprises!

The theme was Hidden Heroes and each day Professor Max sent his Time Travel tunnel back to Bible Times to bring back the person behind a leading character – Jesus' father Joseph, Moses' sister Miriam and so on. Sports Guy brought his own brand of crazy to sports challenges, messy games and daily chats with the Hidden Heroes.

Each day a local vicar or someone involved in youth work came to visit to be grilled – on Monday it was our own Sue Lepp who bravely faced questions and then had to head a cupcake covered in shaving foam. It shouldn't happen to a vicar!

Lighthouse Live was interactive: all the Lighthouses were involved, with familiar Langley faces popping up with messages and prayers and we were blessed with hundreds of emails every day about the crafts and challenges, and support for Team Pete or Team Joanna. Our gallery was full to bursting!

It is wonderful to have been able to keep the Lighthouse lamp burning bright in Langley this year, thanks to the generosity of our supporters. A BIG thank you to everyone involved! And if you missed it – do not worry, you can watch it all again all summer!

<https://go.allstarskidsclub.com/catalog>

Rev. Sue Lepp

'Angelee's Dilemma':

A New Book

Pleasure, joy, and relief are a few of the emotions I feel as I approach the launch of my first book, *Angelee's Dilemma* on Monday, 7th September 2020. There were times I didn't think I would ever get to this point.



I first conceived of the characters in 1997, while attending a three-month School of Writing (University of the Nations, Youth With A Mission).

The story is set in Martinsville, Indiana, my hometown. The town that I grew up in is very different of course from the town that existed in 1917-1918. Even so, despite the passing of years, many of the locations I write about are still there: the library, the courthouse and the house I use as Angelee's home.

The main character, Angelee Tilson, is a teenager who is coming of age in 1917 as America is drawn into World War 1. The theme is finding direction when facing a new season in life. Finishing her high school years, Angelee finds herself asking, "What do I do now? What is my purpose?". As she seeks answers to those questions, she must also learn how to discern and govern her emotions; including handling the attentions of two young men.

The reason I wrote *Angelee's Dilemma* is that asking the question "Now what?" is a universal human experience. For a young person, it is a natural time of exploring and discovering. For others, it may be when goals have been accomplished, and it is time to re-evaluate and reset the direction of their work and relationships. By showing how Angelee learns to hear God's voice, and find her life's calling, I hope the story will help other people find answers for themselves.

Although I chose to write about Indiana, I have been a Langley resident since 2003. I love the "small-town feel" of Langley, just as Martinsville has. Of course, Langley is older!

With so many options available these days, I have decided to self-publish on Amazon. For access to the link, please visit my website DallettaOlenaReed.com. By signing up for my regular e-mail newsletter, you can download a free recipe booklet, *My Five Favorite Cake Recipes*!

Dalletta Olena Reed

Blood Donation Service



I am sure that many readers of *Around Langley* are regular blood donors. But does everyone know that there is a team from the NHS Blood and Transplant Division based in Langley?

Our base is in St Mary's Road but we also serve the surrounding areas of Slough, Maidenhead, Bracknell, and Staines. Four times a week we travel out from our base to one of the 35 venues we visit throughout the year, setting up our equipment in village halls, universities, fire stations and sports centres. We carry all our fifteen cages of equipment on a 7.5 ton lorry. A small minibus carries the staff.

Blood is collected from donors who give up their time and blood for free, so we make sure we give them all a warm welcome and look after them during their visit. During this present pandemic, we have continued with the donation service, although having to keep the donors two metres apart. But for us, physical contact is all part of the job so we use up a lot of hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes!

However, the special procedures during the pandemic are far more extensive. At arrival for an appointment, a donor is

welcomed by a triage nurse who will ask several questions all related to Covid-19. Whilst having a drink in the waiting room where chairs are arranged two metres apart, they are required to read an information folder. Each donor is then invited individually into a session held in a private screening booth where we go through the health check form previously filled in. The form has about forty questions related to travel, medication, surgical procedures and other topics.

Haemoglobin levels (haemoglobin carries the oxygen in the blood) are checked routinely as it is important to make sure that it is safe for the donor to give their blood and also for someone else to receive it. The blood is also tested for some high profile diseases.

Once the donor has been given the green light to proceed, they make themselves comfortable whilst four blood packs are labelled for identification purposes. The donor's chair is tilted backwards so the donor is almost horizontal and a needle is inserted into the most suitable vein near the inside of the elbow joint. The average donation time is around six minutes and from each person we collect 470ml (about *a pint* as older readers might recall from *Hancock's Half Hour!*). After pressure has been applied to the site, and once it has been ascertained that bleeding has stopped, the wound is covered with a dressing of the donor's choice.

The donor is then invited to go to the refreshment area. After ten minutes the donor is free to leave, provided they feel well. Each is thanked and once home it is hoped they will book their next appointment.

When the four packs of blood reach the

processing laboratories, the blood is split into its component parts, red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma. Each of these is used to treat different injuries and conditions.

If you are interested in finding out more about blood or blood donation, there is plenty of information on our website www.blood.co.uk

Malcolm (Males) Forster

The Mayor of Slough writes...

I was first elected as a Haymill Councillor in 2012. To be honest I did not expect to get elected from this 'safe' Tory Ward. Nevertheless, I thought I would give it a go and see by how many votes I lost! While I was out canvassing for votes, I started picking up on things that needed doing and started getting them done: for example getting repairs done and removing graffiti in playgrounds. I was there for two years and was pleased that I got on well with the Tory Councillors of the Ward. In 2014 I was elected from Langley Kedermister Ward, and then re-elected in 2018.

Many wonder about my connection to the church. It started with my going to St John's Church in Farnham Common in 2005. I was a Churchwarden there for six years before stepping down from the role in 2018. My wife and I sang in the church choir for several years as well, but I decided to give it up when I was struggling to stay awake in choir practice!

A few years ago, I realised that at some stage I might become mayor. I was first asked to put my name forward in 2018



when there was some uncertainty about the re-election of the then deputy mayor. She got re-elected and I was asked to be her deputy mayor in 2019.

In my year as deputy mayor I realised that having a full-time job and being mayor just would not work. I decided to look at taking early retirement and fortunately I found that I could retire at 61!

My wife Shirley, who has always been my rock, and I had been preparing for a busy year, and we took our holiday in January. But then Covid19 struck. My year started late because the annual meeting had to be held virtually. When I was sworn in there were only four people in the room!

One of the things that I have found difficult as a mayor is having to stand back from party politics, but it is important to do so. My mayoral year has also has a surreal ring to it because of Covid19: I don't have access to the

Mayor's Parlour, and my PA works from home; the Council Meetings are all virtual on the Bluejeans app, where it is hard to see everyone to give them the opportunity to speak if they wish; the Mayor's Annual Dinner is on hold; and it is not clear how to raise funds for my main charity, Slough Food bank.

Another consequence of the Covid19 situation is that there are no drivers for the mayoral car and I use my own car to attend events! Nevertheless, in due course I plan to visit as many schools and attend as many events as possible and meet as many of the good people of Slough as possible.

Councillor Preston Brooker

Lockdown in Moscow

As for most people, springtime passed us by in an unexpected mode of pandemic lockdown and cancelled plans. The quarantine in Moscow was very strict with gloves and masks being made mandatory from the start and a special code system was introduced to monitor peoples' comings and goings. Schools and playgroups were closed at the same time as churches, which meant that our daily routine was swept from beneath us overnight. I would leave the apartment occasionally to go to a local shop when necessary, otherwise we were inside for around 12 weeks. Thankfully Moscow has a number of incredibly efficient delivery services which means that you can order your shopping, meals, clothes, books, toys or even building supplies from an app on your phone and have it delivered within the hour. Muscovites, on the whole, were very observant of the



PLANT SALE

Houseplants, including Aloe Vera, succulents etc.

Perennial Flowers, strawberry plants, winter bedding etc.

Please ring Liz Jones on 07930 310201 for a list, or to order



measures; the post-soviet culture tends to be 'do whatever you can to stay out of hospital'. We had to be extra careful as just before the city went into lockdown we found out to our surprise that Nina is expecting our fourth child.

The time passed in a peculiar way; the days dragged on but each month seemed to quickly give way to the next. We watched through our windows as the blanket of white March snow melted and gave way to gloriously warm sunshine. My work within the church was reduced to streaming prayer services and a couple of pre-recorded sermons and our eldest daughter was given daily schoolwork online, but inspiration gradually wore thin all round. Five people in a 4-room apartment is more than manageable in a normal rhythm but not when you are all on top of each other all day long.



The Cleaver Family in Moscow

We planted as many basil and flower seeds as we could, using the bag of compost we found and old bottles, seeking as much indoor contact with nature as we could find. Sitting on our closed-in balcony soon became a highlight of lockdown, allowing for a kind of 'indoor sunbathing' and an injection of vitamin D if you opened the windows and sat at exactly the right angle!.

Lockdown was lifted at the beginning of July for largely political reasons as there was an imminent vote for constitutional reform. The lifting of lockdown gave us a month to say goodbye to the fascinating, beautiful and baffling megapolis that is Moscow, the great friends we had made there and our beautiful church family. I was asked to preach for the last two Sundays, which was a lovely way to finish our time there.

After a number of years moving around (more than we enjoyed, at times), we are excited to have a plan for the next *few years!!* I have now been recommended for ordination training which I start in September at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford, and then there will be a curacy!

We left Moscow on the 1st of August, with nine suitcases and a guitar and spent our quarantine fortnight with Robin and Juliet at the vicarage in Langley. From there we moved to a flat on the campus at Cuddesdon, our home during my training, ready for the start of Term in September, for me and the children. Do keep us in your prayers as we settle in to a new place, at a strange time and in what feels like an unfamiliar country.

Josh Cleaver

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)

(For six weeks starting on 6th September, we start on a 40 Days of Prayer Campaign using material from Purpose Driven UK)

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)

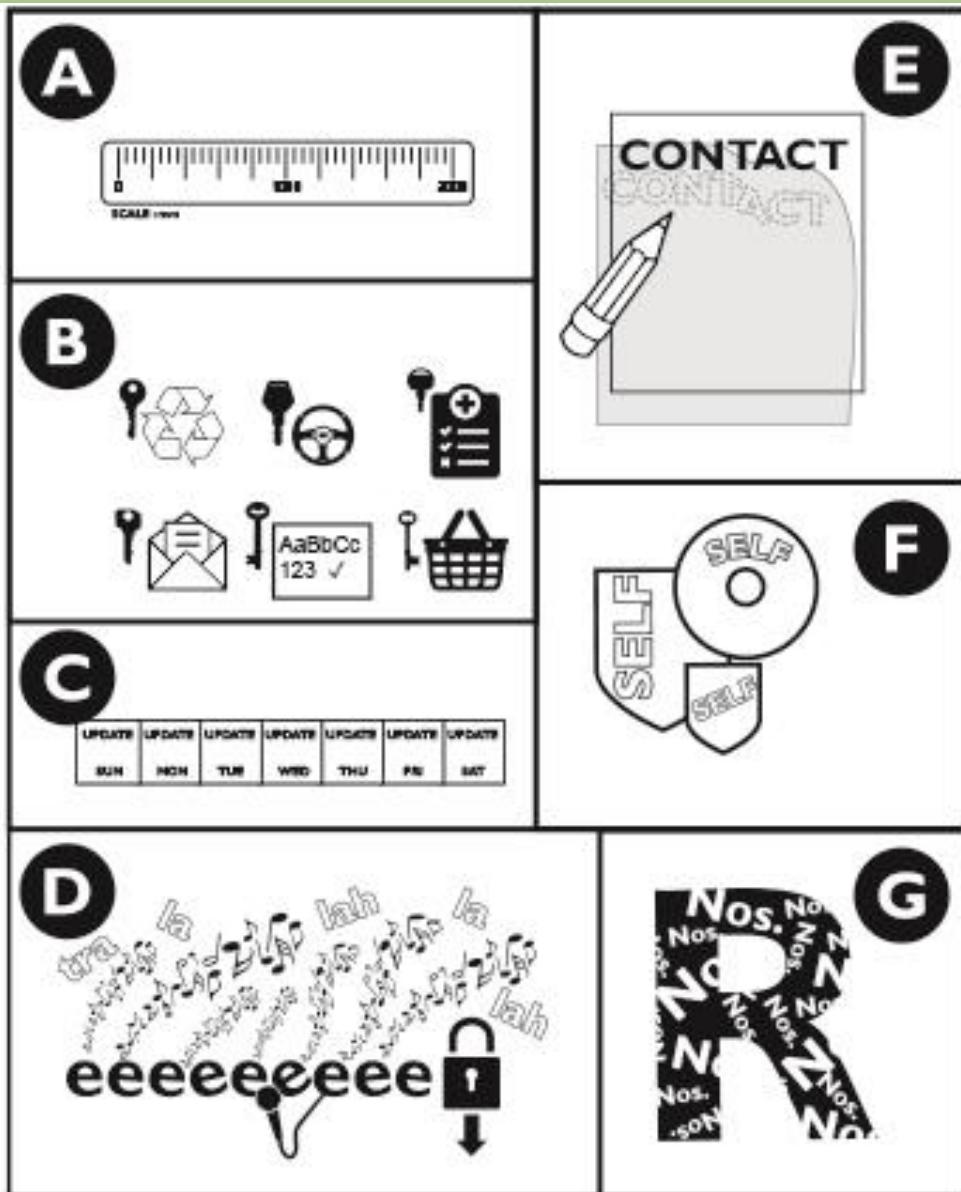
Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion or Morning Worship (also available on Zoom)
Wednesday.	10.00am	Holy Communion

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 given above are the church opening times for public worship. See also p. 17 for further information.

*So, you think you remember what Lockdown was like?
Can you decipher what these are in times of Covid19?
(Devised by Angus MacKenzie. Answers on page 16.)*





Faith Matters

Of the sky at dawn – and a Medjool date

On Wednesday night, 29th July 2020, I went to sleep quickly, but woke at 3.30am. The night was clear. Sparkling between the branches of a tree I could see a bright object – it could only be Venus that bright so low over the horizon. It has become a morning star, having crossed over with the sun earlier in the summer. To the South, about 90 degrees from Venus, fairly bright still, no other stars visible nearby, was red Mars. I walked round to the front of the house, facing west. Jupiter and Saturn are close together at the moment, but they like the moon had set by now.

The night was nearly over, but I sat and relaxed on the garden seat, to enjoy bright Venus, and fainter red Mars. The situation over recent weeks has among other things enhanced my prayer, at least my longing to pray. So that dawn, I relaxed in the mild air wrapped in my dressing gown, ready to meditate.

The Psalms sing out. *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have ordained, what are mortals, that you should be mindful of them, mere human beings that you should seek them out (Ps 8).* Psalm 19 sings even more clearly. *The heavens are telling the glory of God.* The first six verses are celebrating exactly what I am describing in my first paragraph, the well observed and regular

patterns and progression in the night sky: but in lovely poetry as against my prose. There is *neither speech nor language but their sound has gone out into all lands..... The sun comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber.*

Then the psalm changes course. From celebrating the skies, the Psalmist turns to another aspect of God. *The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.* He stays with this theme of the beauty of the law: it is right, natural, clean, enduring, more desirable even than gold, or honey in the comb. It is sometimes suggested that Psalm 19 is really two separate songs fused together. That is not how I respond. I love the conjunction of two kinds of order, strengthened by the warm metaphors in each part: the notion that the forces which establish and sustain the natural world cohere intimately with what is *true and righteous*—‘natural’ for humankind—as we go about our lives. Putting these two themes together provides the foundation for my belief in God, such as it is. I long for reality to be like this: and Jesus on that foundation.

It was time to come in from the garden. I felt relaxed, thankful and ready to sleep a little more. But I stopped by the food cupboard, pulled out a large Medjool date, and sat at the kitchen table to enjoy it. It was wonderful. How might this soft sweetness complete my meditation? A sign, of course, of the natural world’s generosity: pointing both to the immeasurable and undeserved generosity of God which our Hebrew roots affirm;

and to the grace of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, all that, but
my thoughts
turned in
another

direction. I am
so rich: with
plenty of money, a
loving wife and
family, communities of
friends. I felt like Job before he
was tested, or indeed when he was
restored. I am rich in good things of every
kind. -So what of my Medjool date? As I
chewed my date I saw myself beside the
rich man who is careless of poor Lazarus
at the gate.

Mark Chapter 10 attaches me to Jesus
more than almost any other part of
scripture. At the heart of the chapter is
the story of the man whom Jesus
challenges: if he is serious in what he says
he wants, he is to sell what he owns, and
give the money to the poor. *When he
heard this, he was shocked and went away
grieving, for he had many possessions.*
This story makes me want to follow Jesus
but fearful of doing so.

This also, alongside simple gratitude for
so many blessings, is where my
enjoyment of the Medjool date led me
that starry night. The challenge of how to
order my life, without losing touch with
Jesus's radical challenge to sell all that I
own, has been there in the background all
my adult life. The book of Proverbs has
been a ready starting point, praising a
measured, moderate, prudent and
conservative generosity. It suggests that
a wise man, and I do aspire to be a wise
man, may live comfortably with his



neighbours
without much
disturbing
himself or
anyone else.

However, the
starting point of
Proverbs does
not satisfy as a
permanent resting
place. There is a huge

ethical plain between proverbial
wisdom and Francis of Assisi's response to
the challenge of Jesus. I find my way
somewhere in this broad space between
the two. My position moves sometimes
this way, sometimes that. It is a journey.

I had finished the date, it was getting
light. I returned to bed and hoped to
doze. For now I was at ease, ready for the
day lying open before me.

Rev. Canon Martin Peirce
Rector of Langley 197X - 1985

The Poverty of Riches

The choice of the episcopal motto,
"Blessed are the poor" chosen by the new
Catholic bishop of Northampton is an
indicator of the gospel values he
prioritises. This choice challenges the
people who think that the bigger a six
figure sum they have in their bank
account, the happier they are. Most
people, I would say, would go along with
the view that it is good to have riches
provided you are not attached to them.
Some would even defend this position by
claiming that the richer you are the more
you would be able to help the poor,
popularly known today as "trickle-down

economics". So, who is in a better position *before God*, the rich who can and do help the poor or the poor who do not have a roof over their head?

I confess I am not comfortable with choosing to have no roof over my head. On the other hand, I cannot help seeing that the call to becoming a disciple of Jesus involves not just a detachment from riches but also experiencing the pinch of poverty in some form or other. Jesus says about himself: "the son of man has nowhere to lay His head" (Mt 8:20, Lk 9: 57-58). When I was a Jesuit priest, I remember our then Superior General telling us: "It is no use taking a vow of poverty when you have everything you need. Your religious vow becomes then just a piece of paper. You must, at least for some time, live among poor, homeless people. Then you will know what it is to be poor."

Jesus could not be more explicit: "How happy are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God" (Lk 6:20). When God became man, he *chose* to be born poor. At the Visitation, Mary exclaims, "He has filled the hungry with good things; the rich he sent away empty" (Lk 1: 53). St Paul writing to early Christians, well before the gospels were written, says: "God made himself poor so that by his poverty he may make you rich (2Cor 8:9)".

Jesus does not single out poverty as something good in itself, because it is not. Money is one of God's 'creatures' that can help or hinders us depending on

how we use it. The problem is that the lure of riches and the reluctance to part with them is so strong that many cannot resist not letting go of something they will one day have to part with anyway. The devastating effect of the craving for riches shows when families as they fall out with each other on inheritance issues. Yes, money is the root of (all) evil and the evil spirit is a past master in using it to ruin us.

Love of money starts with little things and then, before we know it, we find ourselves on a slippery slope that gradually leads us to believe that riches are what makes us happy. Matthew, Mark and Luke all highlight the incident when the young man did not follow Jesus "because he had many riches".

The danger of riches often highlighted by Jesus figures prominently in the awareness of the early Christian communities: They remembered the words of Jesus: "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 19:24). The Bible is quite categorical and leaves us no choice: "You cannot serve both God and wealth" (Ps 48). The God who knows the depths of



our heart and loves us, that is with total fulness of love, or *eis telos*, as the original Greek has it, could not be more explicit.

Alfred Agius

"You are not making a gift of what is yours to the poor man, but you are giving him back what is his. You have been appropriating things that are meant to be for the common use of everyone. The earth belongs to everyone, not to the rich."

Saint Ambrose of Milan (4th Century)

'Phoebe: A Story'

by Paula Gooder

The Bible does not have many strong female characters and much of the Bible is written 'by men', if not 'for men'. Not surprising given the social conditions of the times, thousands of years ago. But some of the women of the Bible have had a huge influence on the church, of course, starting with Mary, mother of Jesus.

The name of Phoebe would not come to mind immediately when thinking of important women of the Bible, but in AD56, when St Paul wrote his influential letter to the Romans, we

read in the Acts of the Apostles that it was Phoebe who was chosen to take it to the Christians in Rome.

Paul wrote the letter while in Corinth, and Phoebe at that time had a house in Cenchrea, a major seaport of Corinth, and is described as a Deacon there. She was a prosperous business woman, who also had a house in Rome, where also she was a Deacon and a patron. All this we can glean directly from Acts and from the letter to the Romans itself.

Paula Gooder, the eminent Biblical scholar, researched the life and times of Paul thoroughly before writing this book, which she says is not so much a novel, as a story, historical fiction. It is born out of her considerable scholarship fertilised by her vivid imagination. "It is written to bring to life the characters and experiences hinted at in Romans 16", she says, "and to suggest ways in which you might imagine what it was to be part of an early Christian community."

So in this book she brings to life a whole range of characters—Prisca, Aquila, Junia, Timothy, Titus and so on—mentioned in Acts and Romans and imagines their actions and interactions, as well as their reaction to Paul's letter when they hear it for the first time. She has not made Paul a character. There are other books that focus on him, for example by Tom Wright and Rowan Williams (see *Around Langley March 2019*). Nevertheless, the focus of the whole book is on Paul's letters and his journeys, including his plans to visit Spain.



As a female scholar of Paul's life and work, Paula Gooder starts looking for evidence more widely. She concludes that both his letters and the Acts of the Apostles describe the many ways in which women were involved within the Church: Junia who is called an 'apostle' by Paul, Phoebe herself a 'deacon', Lydia in whose house the early church met, and therefore by tradition probably the leader of the church, and Prisca, to mention a few.

I have not tried to summarise the 'Story', which deals imaginatively with the possible origin of Phoebe's Greek name meaning 'brightness', her life history and how she might have become a successful woman and trusted by Paul to carry his letter to Rome (a letter carrier in those days having the authority of the writer to interpret it for the recipient). Dr Gooder's story explains why Phoebe should be better known—as a leader, a preacher/deacon and a patron of the church.

Anna Thomas-Betts

One of the points Dr Gooder makes is about Paul and misogyny: a widely held view in certain circles in the church is about 'headship', namely that only men should hold positions of authority within the church. This is backed up by Paul's statements in several letters (e.g., 1Cor. 11; Tim. 2; Ephesians 5; Col. 3) and grouped together as universally applicable across Christianity, rather than intended for specific situations in particular communities. Then there are also others in the Church who believe that 'Paul is bad for women in the church'!

Answers to Puzzles on p.11

A **2 metre rule**



E



B **key workers**



F



C **daily update**



D **level + level + lock + down**
easing lockdown



G



Re-opening of Churches for Services in Langley

I know I speak for all the churches in Langley when I say that it was with mixed feelings that we reopened our churches for public worship in August, after a break of over four months. The restrictions of 2-metre social distancing, wearing face masks, and not being allowed to sing or to socialise afterwards, made for a strange experience. This was certainly not 'church as we knew it', and many have preferred to stay at home for the online services instead.

As I write this in August we are starting to plan for the Autumn season, and even looking ahead to Christmas and beyond. It seems likely, with the threat of a 'second wave' and renewed lockdown, that the restrictions are not going to be lifted any time soon, so we are developing new patterns of worship. **The services at all the churches are listed on page 10.**

In the Langley Team Ministry, on Sundays we have:

8.00am at St Mary's: Book of Common Prayer Communion

9.30am at Christ the Worker: Morning Worship or Holy Communion

11.00am at St Francis & **on Zoom**: Holy Communion or Morning Worship

And on Wednesdays there is Holy Communion at 10.00am at St Francis.

Holy Family and Langley Free Church have also resumed their patterns of worship, although with restrictions.

Because of the limitations on space and numbers, it would be wise for those that wish to attend Anglican services to get in touch with the clergy beforehand (see clergy contact details on page 19).

In the early days of lockdown, when we were adjusting to frequent changes, there was a certain sense of excitement, with adrenaline flowing and quick decisions to be made. Then we settled to a steady routine for a few months, that seemed quite manageable. Now we are facing further change and uncertainty, especially about how long we will need to keep up whatever the current 'new normal' is.

What has kept 'church' going through the initial months of the pandemic is becoming hard to sustain and feel positive about. It is tempting to lose a sense of hope and direction. This is where we need to keep going back to the basics of our faith in God, and learn to trust again in his plan and purpose for our lives. That is our prayer for ourselves; it is also our prayer for the community of Langley. To quote Mother Julian of Norwich, who herself went through long trying times of illness and life-long self-isolation in a cell, with an ever deepening faith:

'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'

Rev Robin Grayson

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Parish Directory

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 di 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 di Gregorio. tel. 07968 408813 ctw.langley@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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