

June & July 2024

Around Langley



Langley College

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

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gear

Starting June 2024

Editorial

Welcome to Around Langley for June and July. The forecast for weather in the summer ahead is that the temperature rise experienced in recent years will continue, but the amount of rain is unpredictable. That is somewhat like the comments that Anna and I have made in the last two issues over the turbulence in the world.

While that situation generally continues, we aim to be positive here by including articles that focus on some of the good provisions for our local needs. Please use them or draw them to the attention of anyone who may benefit.

Our cover picture is of Langley College and, at a time when many in education are taking, or just finishing, their examinations, we look at some of the provisions of the college.

Besides this range of activities and provisions, don't forget the Langley Carnival with the opportunity to meet up with friends in the Memorial Park on July 13th. If you have not booked your stall and are quick there is still a chance to do so!

Then for the 50s and over, the 3 day Holiday at Home gives us a further opportunity to meet up, have fun, and share experiences together.

In the Faith section, together with articles from Alfred Agius and Anna Thomas-Betts, Father Kevin O'Driscoll shares something of his experiences of 50 years as a priest.

Finally, there is a quiz on the Olympic Games, which starts at the very end of July.

Meanwhile we have just learnt that the General Election will be on 4th July. Make sure that you are registered to vote and have an approved photo identity so that you can do so.

Enjoy this Around Langley, some of the local events and have a good summer. God bless you.

Tony Randall

News from Around Langley

Langley Community Coffee Shop



Come and join us at our meetings for a coffee and chat and to enjoy half an hour of seated exercise which is great fun. There is an interesting programme planned for June and July as below.

On 11th June Naomi Hudson from the Arbib Education Heritage Trust, comprising Langley Academy and Primary Academy and Langley Heritage Primary, will give a talk about her project to arrange an exhibition of V & A childhood items. Naomi is hoping to enlist the help of older people along with children in this project.

Our annual daytrip will be on **June 18th** to Broadstairs. We leave at 9.30am from outside the Holy Family Catholic Church and will leave Broadstairs at 4.00pm.

On **July 16th** our AGM will be followed by scones, cream and jam, and our last meeting before the summer break will be on **July 23rd**.

On September 10th the Coffee Shop will reconvene after the summer break, as usual at 10am, in St Joseph Hall at the back of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Trelawney Ave, SL3 7UD.

for further information contact me on 07859 750 508.

Sheila Papali

Slough Foodbank believes that no one in the community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days worth of nutritionally balanced, emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in food poverty crisis. We also have a partnership financial inclusion project with Citizens Advice East Berkshire. This is a long-term approach, helping people get the advice they need so they can reduce their reliance on crisis support, including the use of foodbanks, as their financial situation improves.

We thank you for your continuing support and interest in Slough Foodbank. As the increase in demand for our services continues, we are reliant on the generosity of the community of Slough and the surrounding areas.

In this update we would like to focus on two areas where we need your help: Donations of Food and Toiletries and an invitation to Join our Trustees in the role of Secretary

Donations of Food and Toiletries

We want to make sure that no one in our local community goes hungry, but we need your help to make this happen. We rely on

the donations of food, toiletries and financial gifts to provide the food parcels to our clients. We are always looking for tinned food such as tinned fruit and tinned tuna as well as long-life food such as long-life fruit juice, Long-life soup, long-life cooking sauces and toiletries such as shampoo.



as well as submitting regulatory requirements.

Slough Foodbank is looking for people willing to bring energy, enthusiasm, and most of all commitment to the role, and who will

broaden the diversity of thinking of our board.

A full list of our needs is available here: <https://slough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help-2/foodbank-wishlist/>

Our warehouse at 411 Montrose Avenue, Slough SL1 4TJ is open for donations at the following times: Mondays 1-3pm: Wednesdays and Fridays 10am – 12noon.

Donations can also be left in the supermarket permanent collection points.

Donate money – we are having to buy more food and toiletries to meet demand

Details of financial giving are available here: <https://slough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help-2/donate-money/>

Join our Trustees as Secretary

We are looking for a Secretary to join the Board of Trustees for the food bank and support that board to fulfil its responsibilities for the overall governance and strategic direction of the food bank. Duties include administration relating to Trustee meetings such as agendas, meeting invitations and minutes, reviews of policies, managing the board calendar

New Trustees do not need any previous governance experience as Trussell Trust will provide a full induction and training.

Further details are available here: <https://slough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help-2/volunteer/>

Slough Foodbank is a faith-based charity motivated by Christian principles, follows biblical values and has strong associations with local churches. In order to preserve the charity's distinctiveness, the Trustees of Slough Foodbank reserve the right to make appointment of Trustees who are loyal to the Christian ethos of the charity.

Discover the Exciting Educational Opportunities at Langley College

One of the most imposing buildings in Langley is the College on Station Road, which long standing local residents will have seen grow over the years from the time it was 'junior partner' to the now defunct Slough College of Technology.

Some of you may have fond memories of being students there in past days.

Today Langley College is part of the Windsor Forest Colleges Group which includes Strode's College Egham, Windsor College, and the Berkshire College of Agriculture. Together they provide for a very wide range of educational needs in the area.



Langley College has a strong focus on vocational needs, providing a wide range of courses including:

- Business
- Childcare & Education
- Computing & IT
- Construction
- Engineering Technology
- Foundation Studies
- Game Design
- Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
- Health & Social Care
- Hospitality & Catering
- Learn English (ESOL)
- Motor Vehicle
- Travel, Tourism & Aviation



Many of these courses will be undertaken by students on apprenticeship courses. General education is provided with pre-entry courses as well as in GCSE Maths and English.

Specialist provision is made within the college prospectus for the needs of asylum seekers and refugees.

The college is proud of its commitment to sustainability and the environment with initiatives that focus on these areas and assist in the development of those who wish to make careers within them.

Two areas where local Langley residents might wish to make use of college provisions are in hair and beauty, by making use of the salon, or in fitness in the sports centre or gym.

The salon can be booked on 'www.langley.ac.uk/the-salon/' and contact made with Absolutely Fitness on '<https://www.absolutely-fitness.co.uk/memberships/>'.

Tony Randall

Langley Free Youth Group

Weekly Subs £1

Topical Discussions
Local Events
Religious Discussions
Guest Speakers
Youth Questions
Trips
Meeting With other Churches Youth Groups

Football
Basketball
Hockey
Volley Ball
Table Tennis
Pool / Snooker Table
Table football
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Sit & Chat

Are you?

- Age between 10 & 14
- In School Years 6-9
- Want somewhere to meet or make new Friends
- Want somewhere to Relax?

Langley Free Church Youth Group

100 Trelawney Ave., Langley, Slough, SL3 8RW

Email: youth.club@langleyfree.org.uk

Open between: 19.30-21.00

Weekly on Tuesdays in School Term times



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holiday2024@Langleyfree.org.uk



Changing lives one job at a time



Ability Slough is a fantastic new project providing support for people with disabilities and long term health conditions to gain and maintain paid employment.

If you have a disability or long term health condition and are struggling to gain or maintain employment, **we can help!**

We provide supported employment services in Slough. We work with you to understand what you like to do and match your skills, experience and aspirations to job roles in the local area.

We also work with lots of employers and are always making new relationships, which helps in our aim to get you into work as soon as possible.

Once you get a job, **we provide support to help you keep it** at your place of work. Scan the QR code to find out more.



LANGLEY CARNIVAL

this year will take place in the Memorial Park on
Saturday, 13th July, 12—4.30pm.



Langley Carnival has a long history, going back to the days of the traditional Flower Show, when Langley was a rural village with its church and duck pond. After World War II local enthusiasts, the late Percy Beckett prominent among them, revived the tradition of a village fête and procession.

During the sixties, the newly formed Langley Community Association took over the running of the fête, led by Councillors Lilford and Cyril Swinnerton. In the seventies they sought assistance from the Play Leadership Group, headed by Iris Balchin, and together they organised the 1973 carnival in five short weeks!

The following winter all local associations were invited to participate, and The Langley Carnival Association as we know it today was formed, mounting its first effort in 1974.

This year we welcome Basil's Farm, Cookie the Clown, Mellor Dancers, CAST, SWIPE steel band and other arena events. Billy Irvines fair will be there for the weekend. As usual we will also have different stalls:

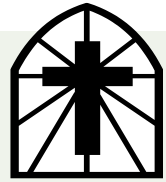
tombolas, healthcare, water, Pimms ,
burgers, bacon rolls ,
ice hockey etc, children's games,
prayer tent, and more.



To book a stall Please contact the Chairman on 01753 539024

£15 for community stalls, £30 for commercial .

Thanks to Berkshire Community fund and Flatman's for their support.



Regular Weekly Service Times

Holy Family (Roman Catholic) (Trelawney Avenue)

We will be having Masses at 5pm on Saturdays and 9.30am and 11.30am on Sundays

The 9.30am Mass is live streamed on our YouTube Channel:
"HOLYFAMILYCHURCHLIVE"

Langley Free Church (Baptist) (Trelawney Avenue)

Please note that there will be services on all Sundays at 10.30am.

Communion will be as pre-Covid with no restrictions.

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

On 9th June there will be a joint morning service at Christ the Worker at 9.30am and no other services in the parish, save the 8am BCP Communion

Regular Activities at Langley Churches

Bible Study

On Zoom Wednesday afternoons, 2pm
(Contact: diana.iller@gmail.com)

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, 2pm (Contact: Shola Aoko, shola_aoko@yahoo.co.uk)

'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 stay for 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.

Oasis at Langley Free

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

Contact: Ann Portsmouth 01753 585845

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.

Messy Church

16th June 4 - 6pm
(including light meal) & at the Carnival.



REFRESH! at St Francis

Third Thursday of every month
(June 20th and July 18th)

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 2024 at LFC 12–4pm

Bring your hobby along and join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Next meetings 15th June and 20th July.

Contact Chris on 07789 838 500.
(Suggested donation £2 towards refreshments)



Faith Matters

Lord, that I May See

(Lk 18:41)

My last piece in *Around Langley* (April 2024), "Where on Earth is Heaven?" ends by saying that heaven is God himself. About God, Luke, in Acts quoting St Paul (17:28), tells us "in Him we move and live and have our being". God instilled in us a deep desire to know and to love Him as much as we, limited human beings, can. But God will always remain a mystery and in asking questions we often find ourselves out of our depth.

One question we might ask is: how and why did God create us at all, in our evolving universe? A second question that intrigued me for many years is that the Bible tells us that God wants *all* people to be saved (1Tim 2.4). But we do not know how this is possible.

To the first question, how and why God created the universe, the author(s) of Genesis tell us that God first created the material world and then God "fashioned man out of dust from the soil [the word *adamah* means 'of the soil'] Then God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life, and thus man became a living being" (Gen 2:7, 20-23). God then saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so out of Adam's body he formed Eve and brought her to Adam to be his mate. God's purpose in creating us humans is that we know and love Him who loves us unconditionally.

The all-important point to keep in mind about creation is that God simply chose to do this. He did not have to. God needs nothing from anybody. Loving God and each other is purely for our benefit, not God's, as St Irenaeus, a 2nd Century doctor of the Church wrote. Moreover,

the Fall serves as a prelude for God to later manifest His merciful love. The liturgy calls the Fall, 'a happy fault'. St Athanasius in his work 'On



the Incarnation', goes further, writing that 'by becoming man God truly loves us enough to make a way for us through Jesus'.

To the second question about God's will that all people are saved through Christ, it is helpful to remember that the Bible is the history of salvation, mostly of a chosen people all descended from Abraham, leading up to Jesus. It is not a world history. That we can and do ask questions about God's relationship with us is God's gift to us humans.

The all-important question about God's plan is how to reconcile God's will to save all people when countless millions have lived before Christ. Moreover, the majority of people today do not know him and are happy to follow other ways. It is estimated that *Homo sapiens* appeared around 190,000 BC and from that time till the birth of Christ, even if there is some guesswork here, it roughly means some 55 billion people! How could all these people have been saved without knowing Christ?

The words of Isaiah: "my ways are not your ways nor my thoughts your thoughts" throw some light on the inscrutable plan of God. The words of Archangel Gabriel to Mary too, can help us: "Nothing is impossible to God". The relationship of the divine person of Jesus with each human person is unique, transcending space and time. In a teaching document, the late Pope John Paul II wrote: "every authentic prayer is

prompted by the Holy Spirit, who is mysteriously present in every human heart." About the need of the Church in the salvation of people, we should keep in mind that the Church is at the service of the Spirit not the other way round. The Second Vatican Council teaches that God saves people in ways known only to Him." (*Lumen Gentium*, 16).

Together with reflecting on how and why God created us as well as how all people before the birth of Christ and those after Christ who never knew about Him can be saved, a third question, comes to mind: the fact that we can interact with God. What a surprise and what an honour! Yes, God talks to us, and we can talk to God at any time, in any place. No booking is required, no dress code, any language will do. In fact, no language at all is necessary! I like the words of Julien Green (1900-1998), a French writer: "God is interested in you as if there were no one else on earth."

Many people, including people from all faith traditions, have left us records of their experience of God. Cardinal Basil Hume in his book *Searching for God*, writes about the 'prayer of incompetence', about who God is and who I am. St Therese of Lisieux writes that prayer arises, if at all, from incompetence, otherwise there is no need for it. Each one's experience is unique. For Christians, including those who still go to church, and really for everybody else, it will be helpful if apart from formal religion they cultivate the art

of experiencing God in the depths of the present moment. God is always with us. Without Him present to us, we will simply not exist.

St Augustine's words come to mind: God is more intimate to me than I am to myself. God speaks to us in the depths of our being, inspiring in us a greater desire for Him.

Alfred Agius

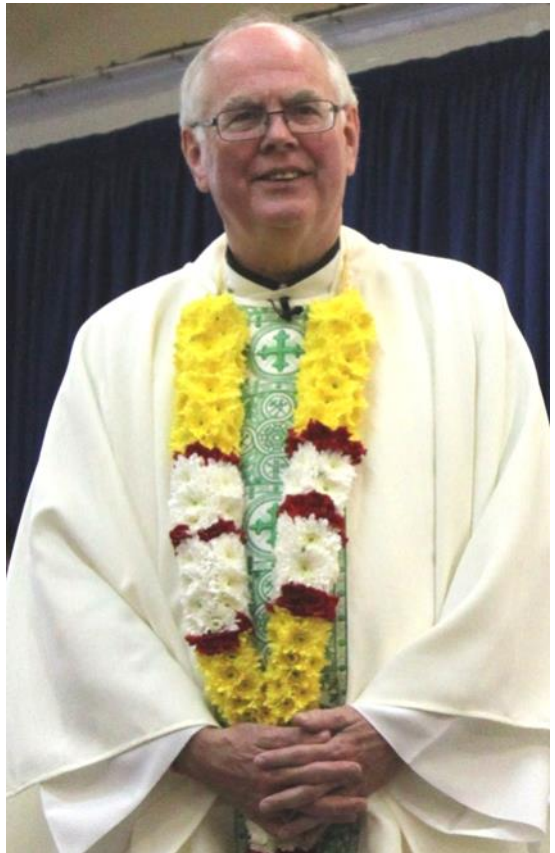
A Walk Down Memory Lane for Fr Kevin

At the beginning of July 1974 we had a Labour Government that was led by Harold Wilson, Michael Ramsey was coming to the end of his time as Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope of that time was Paul VI; Derby County were basking in the glory of being first division football champions and number one in the "hit parade" was "Rock the Boat" by the Hues Corporation. ABBA had just won the Eurovision Song Contest with "Waterloo"; Victoria Beckham and Olivia Colman were no more than young babies at that time and the world had just said goodbye to "Duke" Ellington. A gallon of petrol (note gallon, not litre) cost 53.5p in 1974 and the inflation rate was 16.04%!!

A few months later in 1974 the world would be rocked by the resignation

of the American President Richard Nixon in the wake of the Watergate scandal and that year would see nearly 300 people killed in "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland.

Almost all of that you would have been able to read in the national newspapers of the time but the national attention would not have been alerted to an event taking place in Our Lady of Peace Church, Burnham on July 5th 1974. On that beautiful evening, I was ordained a priest by Bishop Charles Grant of



Northampton and so in a few weeks' time I will be celebrating my Golden Jubilee. I know it is a cliché, but just where have those years gone?

Some football managers look back on their careers and describe themselves as "lucky". I regard myself in the same way. When I was an assistant priest I had the wonderful example of good parish priests, people I could learn from. Before I came to Langley I served in a number of parishes (Northampton, Luton, High Wycombe, Biggleswade and Milton Keynes) and I was happy in all of them. In 2002 I was appointed to be parish priest here at Holy Family. It has been just an extraordinary experience....a beautiful church but, much more than that, a wonderful, warm community.

I am not sure how to describe what it is like to be a priest. Like in any walk of life it has its ups and downs, such as coming to terms with the knowledge that I would not get married and have children and at other times knowing that you can really help people at the lowest moments. But looking back over 50 years I see it as a very privileged life. A priest is welcomed into people's lives at the most precious, momentous moments: at the baptism of a child already cherished, when a couple commit themselves to each other for life, when somebody faces serious illness and when a family bring a loved one who has died to church to gently commend them into the hands of a loving God. To be close to people when they are most happy and when they are most sad is

what a priest is called to do.

Anniversaries are good occasions to look back and thank God for blessings received. I will certainly do that at the beginning of July.

Canon Kevin O'Driscoll

Ascension

Those of us who use the (Nicene) Creed in our worship will recognise the sequence, *"On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end."

In the forty days after his resurrection, Jesus met his disciples in various settings. He encouraged them, and reminded them of his need to return to the Father, and the promise of the Holy Spirit coming to them. Thus they were transformed from the bewildered, frightened and grieving group of people that they were after Jesus' death, to the confident early Christians that we see in the Acts of the Apostles.

Without the crucifixion and resurrection, there is no salvation, but it was after his ascension into heaven that the Church was born at Pentecost. So those two events are just as important to our Christian life as Easter.

At Christmas we talk about heaven and earth meeting. Ascension is also a meeting of earth and heaven: man going up to heaven, rather than God coming down to earth.

There seem to be three key themes to Ascension: the first is that it was Jesus, as he was on the earth, with his wounds from crucifixion still visible to his disciples, who ascended into heaven; secondly, he is seated at 'the right hand of God' as King, whose Kingdom is everlasting; thirdly, although now gone up to heaven, he will come again, to judge 'the living and the dead'.

The first, that at the Ascension humanity was taken into the Godhead is a profound mystery. From the beginning of the Bible, we are told that God created man in his own image, and later in Proverbs that he 'delighted' in human beings, but here we have humanity being incorporated into God. Some theologians point out that the Ascension also emphasise that the 'destiny of human beings' is to become divine. Salvation is sometimes expressed thus: "God became man so that Man might become god."

The second theme is that Jesus is King, sitting by the Father. This is of course no new concept to us. Our scriptures, our liturgy, our prayers are all full of words relating to kings and kingdoms. The Lord's prayer ends with the proclamation



that to God belongs the kingdom. In modern times, when most countries do not have a king (or queen) and the aspiration generally is to become republics, we have to work hard to understand what this means. The first and best source as to what Kingdom of Heaven means, is Jesus himself. He taught through many parables and other sayings what the Kingdom of God is like. It would be wrong to assume that it is like the realm of the best King we know on earth.

The third aspect pertaining to Ascension is the predicted second coming of Jesus: He will come to *judge* the living and the dead. No one knows when; it will be like a thief coming to steal at night. However, Jesus does tell us *how* he will judge us. He will separate us like goats from sheep and invite the 'sheep' into heaven, while the

'goats' will be cast into hell. The criteria for the separation is important to note. The chosen ones are those who fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked, visited the sick and those in prison: Jesus counts what they did for 'these least of his brethren' as being done for him. And if they didn't look after those in need, it was him that they were spurning.

In this parable from Matthew's gospel, no

mention about believing or religious observances, we note. It is all about loving your neighbour, no doubt inspired by the love for God.

One might wonder who can qualify to be among the sheep, as we all fall short of what is expected of us. All we can do is simply to trust that Jesus who died for our salvation will show compassion and forgiveness even at the last judgement.

Anna Thomas-Betts

Dee S Clark



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

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John Reed

John told us in the February magazine about his planned bike ride round Australia to raise funds for charity. Unfortunately, he had an accident at the beginning of his trip and was unable to get going. He now writes:

On my first Sunday in Australia, as I was approaching the Tidal River via a dirt track, I had to swerve to avoid people when my tyre hit a lip on the edge of the walkway. I went flying off the bike and fell very hard onto a large boulder. The bike fell on top of me, and had to be lifted off.

A couple who assisted me after the fall kindly returned me to my friends who live near the starting point of my ride. The result, four broken ribs. I had to end the ride and return home in early April.

Thank you to all who have supported and prayed for me.

The answers to the puzzle on Page 18

1. Tennis 2/8. Volleyball / Beach Volleyball or Handball 3. Rugby 7s 4. Beach Ball
5. Football 6. Bowling 7. Cricket 8/2 Volleyball / Beach Volleyball or Handball
9. Golf 10. Basketball 11. Baseball

Baseball, Cricket and Beach Ball will NOT appear in the Paris Olympics 2024

Another Puzzle from Angus Mackenzie



Clues, Hints and Red Herrings

Baseball
Boule
Football
Rugby 7s
Squash

Basketball
Bowling
Golf
Tennis
Volleyball

Beach
Cricket
Handball
Snooker

From the ball sports shown above which will NOT appear in the Paris Olympics 2024?

The answers to the puzzle can be found on the previous page.



Robert, Chris, Andrew & Michael Lodge

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- Mr Robinson

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Parish Directory

St Mary's Church

www.langleymarish.com/stmary

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

Hall Lettings: Simona de Gregorio. tel. 07968 408813
churchcentre@hotmail.com

Parish Administrator: Angus MacKenzie 01753 350444 langleymarish@gmail.com

St Francis Church

www.langleymarish.com/stfrancis

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

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

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

Christ the Worker Church

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

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

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

Holy Family Catholic Church

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

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