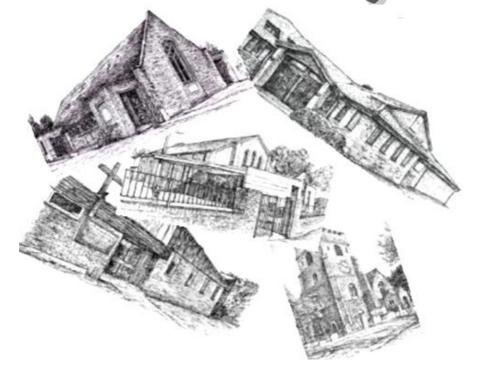
October & November 2024

# Around Langley



The churches in Langley

A FREE MAGAZINE

published by the Langley Churches

for the people of Langley

#### Contents

#### **Contacts**

#### General

| Editorial                           | Page 3  |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Community Coffee Shop               | Page 4  |
| Living in Langley                   | Page 4  |
| Atra's Story                        | Page 4  |
| Emmanuel's Story                    | Page 6  |
| Iris's Story                        | Page 6  |
| Ann's Story                         | Page 7  |
| Langley—What is it?                 | Page 9  |
| Regular services and activities     | Page 10 |
| Activities for all, at our Churches | Page 11 |

#### Faith Matters

| The Liturgy                      | Page 12 |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Jerusalem—Longing for Peace      | Page 14 |
| LFC-the non-Liturgical Church    | Page 16 |
| "Who am I?" - Dietrich Bonhoffer | Page 18 |

Church Directory Page 20

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Entry Tickets: £12 (To include wine. cheese and nibbles)

All proceeds to The Thames Valley Adventure Playground

For further information contact Liz Jones: 07930 310201

#### **Editorial**

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Around Langley. Autumn officially began on 22nd September when, in theory, day and night were of the same length. We, of course, tend to think of the four seasons largely in terms of temperature and weather, though as they are so changeable they are probably not such a good guide. Perhaps a better indicator of the arrival of Autumn would be Harvest time which some will have already celebrated but at my church, Langley Free Church, our Harvest Thanksgiving is on 6th October.



Thinking of weather, we will have become aware of the serious flooding in central Europe which has stretched from Northern Italy to Poland. Storm Boris may affect some parts of England, and we certainly need to pay attention to how weather patterns are changing and their impact.

Besides Harvest, during the months of October and November there are a number of dates that we might remember. Staying with the harvest theme, did you know there is a Bramley Apple Day? To celebrate the development of this wonderful British cooking apple there are celebrations in Southwell, Nottinghamshire on 26th October, where it was 'created' in the 1850s.

Other more familiar dates are the end of British Summer time on 27th October, when the clocks go forward, and All Souls Day on 1st November preceded by its Eve, which is better known as Halloween. Then during November there follow Guy Fawkes, or Bonfire, Night on 5th and the most brilliant of British pageantry on 9th, with the Lord Mayor's Show in London. There is a theme of PLACE in this issue with some reflections on Living in Langley and on Jerusalem, longing for peace.

I hope you enjoy your reading of this Around Langley and, as always, comments are most welcome.

Tony Randal

## **News from Around Langley**

## Langley Community Coffee Shop



It was good to see familiar faces again, as we recommenced after the summer break, and to hear how everyone had spent their summer holidays, if we can say we had a summer. Some people did manage to get away and to have an enjoyable break. Sadly, one face was missing, that of Len Osborne who passed away at the beginning of August. He will be sadly missed.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October we will be holding our Macmillan Coffee Morning, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October we are fortunate enough to have a member of the Community Police coming to tell us how they are planning to keep us safe, and what advice they can give us.

We are planning to visit the Christmas Market in Salisbury on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, so if you are interested, please let me know on 0780750508 as soon as possible.

The Coffee Shop provides a community meeting place in St. Joseph's Hall at the back of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Trelawney Avenue, SL<sub>37</sub>UD. We meet every Tuesday from 10am until 11.30 am, apart from a short break in the summer, and also at Christmas and Easter. We

provide an informal place where people can make friends, and also enjoy half an hour of seated exercise. So, if you think you would be interested, please come along.

Sheila Papali

## Living in Langley

#### Atra's story

I have known my house in Langley all my life, built in the 1960s it only had one other owner before my family bought it. I have seen people come and go on our road over the decades, countless gardens have disappeared, the cars have got much bigger and certainly more numerous.

One of my first memories of our street is of a white horse, and donkey who lived in the field right opposite. Standing on tip toe I was just big enough to watch, as they leaned on the wooden enclosure swishing their tails to keep the flies away, during the long hot summers of the mid 1970s.

About five years later a row of houses were being built on the field, I missed the green space and its four-legged occupants. The builders were busy putting up scaffolding, carrying bricks and mixing cement, and day after day the new terrace took shape. Finally, it was finished and ready to welcome its first residents. Lorries arrived containing armies of removal men, and

families unloaded sofas, bookcases, beds and all the possessions needed to begin new lives.

One of the families soon sparked an interest in my young inquisitive mind. The whole family mum, dad, daughter and two sons all wore smart matching dark navy-blue track suits with white stripes on the arms. Now everyone sportswear but in the late 1970s that made them stand out. In all weathers and all year round, they would leave the house in the early hours of the morning; the tall teenage sons carried huge sports bags as they walked down garden path and somehow squashed themselves and the huge bags into their dad's small red car.

Curiosity got the better of me and I was soon plaguing my granny with constant questions...What were they doing? And where they were going? So faithfully, and with such dedication every day. And why were they dressed like that?

Somehow, and mostly to keep me quiet, granny found out that they were going to the swimming pool every day, and that Philip, one of the sons, was an incredibly talented world champion swimmer, and, not only that, he was training to take part in the Olympics.

As Philip trained daily and worked hard towards his Olympic dreams, the build-up

to Moscow 1980 became overshadowed by a bitter campaign to boycott the games as a protest the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. This was spearheaded by American President Jimmy Carter and supported by some politicians in Britain, Australia, and West Germany.

During the Summer of 1980 I remember avidly watching the Olympics on TV, getting so excited to see our neighbour as he represented Great Britain in the 200m Butterfly.

Just three English swimmers have won butterfly medals at the Olympic Games and Phil Hubble was the first man to achieve the feat with 200m Butterfly silver in 1980. His ambitions started in Langley but were to take him all over the world representing his country.

I remember going over to his house and asking if I could see his medal when he got back. It was so impressive and inspiring as I had never seen an Olympic medal before, and I couldn't believe that somebody I knew and had seen everyday so close to home, had achieved something so incredible.

Langley may have changed, but young dreams stay the same, and who knows what future stars may be living in a house right near you.

#### Emmanuel's Story

I've found Langley so far to be a really lovely area that offers a balanced lifestyle for residents. The excellent transport links makes it very convenient for me to move with little around to hassle. no Additionally, Langley benefits from a dedicated train station the Elizabeth Line which I have found very useful for commuting.

As someone who appreciates nature, I've really benefited from the atmosphere at Langley Park. I get to go there on sunny days to just sit on the grass, read a book and enjoy the cool from nature. Dog owners also get to take their pets on walks and it's always fun and refreshing seeing the cute fluffballs running around and having a good time.

Other parks can be found around including Black Park and Colne Valley Regional Park that offer outdoor activities. When it comes to amenities, Langley offers a variety of local amenities.

The community is rich with a variety of shops and restaurants which makes it quite easy for me to purchase the groceries and household utensils. It also offers a mix of cultures ranging from traditional British to Indian, Pakistani and Turkish which I have found interesting as a foreigner, the opportunity to try out different meals and experience and learn about different cultures.

In terms of tourist attractions, there are some interesting places which I have

noted to pay a visit to during my time here, including Windsor Castle which serves as both a historical site and an official residence of the British Royal Family. The beautiful St. George's Chapel is also located there, where many royal weddings and events have taken place.

I've really enjoyed my stay here so far; it's been an enlightening and fascinating time. With its excellent transport, great green spaces, and range of amenities, Langley is truly a nice residential choice which I have enjoyed experiencing.

#### Iris' Story

I have lived in Langley for about 40 years and remember the early days when it was much quieter; with quiet streets, a sense of not being crowded, a clean environment, and ease of shopping.

My new neighbours were very friendly and welcoming. They made me and my family feel comfortable and at home.

The front of many houses were adorned with beautiful flower gardens, which reminded me of my Jamaican homeland.

There were many parks in which the children could play with their friends without feeling threatened. There were good schools too for them to attend.

And It was convenient for me to be near to London and the hospital where I worked.

There were different faiths that people were following and each had their own 'church' in which to worship.

Things have changed a bit but I still love Francis and Christ the Worker churches. Langley.

#### Ann's Story

I have lived in Langley all my life and I am now in my 8os. I grew up in a shop called J Farnes in Meadfield Road with my father Jack, mother Winifred and brother David.

What a change I have seen in Langley over those years. When I was small Langley was a guiet village and everyone knew each other. The village was the main part of Langley with houses, shops, merchants, 2 churches, St Mary's and Langley Free.

There were various factories too. Langley Alloys, Southern Forge, Metal & Methods, Starch Products. **Pasolds** Foamite. (Ladybird), and other smaller firms. In Elmhurst Road we had the W.I. meeting place, andmany events used to be held in Elmhurst Hall.

Every year we would have the 'Langley Fete' with a good procession of floats and a band to lead it. I remember there would be lots of marguees with competitions in them and the fete was a great highlight for everyone in Langley. One year we even had a Gymkhana which was great fun, with good entertainment in the arena, and many stalls and attractions.

Then in the 1950s everything changed with the building of the LCC estate, Parlaunt Estates and Talbot Ave Estate and Langley grew and grew. We had new schools, a Catholic church, and later St

There were many organisations Langley: Girls Brigade, Boys Brigade, Scouts, Guides, St Johns Ambulance, Women's Own, Mothers Meeting, Youth Clubs, Dance classes and other groups and activities that no doubt I have forgotten. So, Langley was a very busy place and there was plenty to do.

Although we had at least 5 churches in Langley they did not meet together very often in the early days, and it is great now that they do more things together and we get to know each other better.

Some things have closed, all the factories have gone but we have new ones. The schools have stayed and more added. There are more shops but all the banks have gone.

If you ask people around here where they live, they always say Langley, and not Slough, the town, the seat of the Borough Council. I too enjoy living in Langley, it is still a good place to live in.



#### **Christmas Card Sale**

196 Langley Road

SL3 7EE. Wednesday 31st October 4-6pm including tea and cakes

## Christingle at St Mary

On Sunday, 1st December at 4pm
Everyone, especially children, most welcome.





## Carols and Readings for Advent at St Mary

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup>December, 6.30pm

## Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service this year will take place this year on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. The main features of the ceremony will be as in the past, starting at 11am. More details wll be available on their website nearer the time.



## Chrisrmas Fayre at St Mary's Church

(St Mary's Road, SL3 7EL)

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2.00–3.30pm

We are looking for local companies to donate raffle prizes for this popular annual event. If you are able to helpus, please leave a message with the Parish Office on:

T 01753 350444

E laglehymarish@gmail.com
and we'll get back to you.

## Langley - What is it?

I hope you enjoy the short personal reflections on Living in Langley. I recently heard the one who has lived here longest referring to Langley as a *village*, which set me wondering. Is Langley a village and does it matter?

A village according to my dictionary and google searches can be described as a settlement where people live near one another and share local services and facilities or a centre of habitation having a simple organisation or administration.

Langley appears to meet the first of those statements – it is certainly a place where people live, rather a lot of us now and in some cases perhaps too near one another, sharing local services and facilities. It is the second definition that would seem not to stand up in that there is no organisation or administration that provide for the inhabitants of Langley alone. The responsibility for the provision of organisation and administration is with Slough Borough Council, none of which is delegated to a Langley body.

There are four Langley wards with elected Councillors onto Slough Borough Council. To confuse matters, while residents in *two* of these wards are represented in Parliament by the member of Parliament for Slough, those for the other two have the Windsor MP representing them.

So, is Langley truly a village? I think not, although when I first came to live here nearly sixty years ago it was much more like one. That was closer to the date that Langley ceased to exist as a separate identity and became part of Slough. It happened in two bites, everything south of the canal on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1930 and the rest 4 years later. I wonder if there is anyone living in Langley who was around on either of those dates?

Does it matter whether we are a village? Probably not for most people. But might it be better if there was something to coalesce around to form a community? What do you think?

Tony Randall

## 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.

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 Sundays11am 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 SundayZ, no fixed format

ALL SOULS SERVICE: On 27<sup>th</sup> October, at 6.30pm at St Mary.

#### Regular Activities at Langley Churches

#### **Bible Study**

On Zoom Wednesday afternoons, 2pm starting 25<sup>th</sup> September, based on Micah. Check with diana.iller@gmail.com about missing some Wednesdays in October.

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 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.

#### 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.

#### **REFRESH!** at St Francis

#### Third Thursday of every month

Join us for tea and cake and fellowship with a talk or maybe a quiz or even a surprise activity! A warm welcome awaits you!

#### Oasis at Langley Free

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

Contact: Ann Portsmouth 01753 585845

Messy Church at Langley Free CHRISTINGLE on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December,



10am to
1pm
(including a light lunch)



Craft Afternoons 2024 at LFC 12–4pm

Bring your hobby along and join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup>
Saturday of every month (19<sup>th</sup>
October and 16<sup>th</sup> November).
Contact Chris on 07789 838 500.
(Suggested donation £2 towards refreshments)

### **Faith Matters**

## The Liturgy

Most Christians must have heard of the word 'Liturgy'. They are likely to have some idea of what it is, a type of church service. But it can become a bit tricky trying to grasp the full meaning of this word which comes from the Greek word leiturgia (leit -public + ergon-work) - (a public office performed voluntarily by a rich Athe nian in ancient Greece). In the Christian context and tradition, it has come to mean the participation of the People of God in the work of God. God who is love, would like to let us participate in the feast of his joy. Such a scenario is beautifully described in Isaiah 25:6 which gives us a symbolic picture of what heaven is like. Yahweh is the King. To celebrate the enthronement of his divine kingship he invites everybody to a sumptuous banquet. This is what theologians call the universal salvific will of God. God wants all people to enjoy heaven, this 'endless moment of love." The liturgy is God's invitation for us to share in His life which if we accept, existentially transforms us making us adopted sons and daughters of God. Saint Edith Stein, the German-Jewish philosopher turned Carmelite gassed by the Nazis in the concentration camp at Auschwitz, beautifully wrote about the role of the liturgy: "God

Himself teaches us to go forward with our hand in His by means of the church's liturgy."

The liturgy is the work of the whole Christ, Jesus being the head and the Church being his Body. He is the high priest who celebrates unceasingly the heavenly liturgy along with all those who have already entered the kingdom. the eternal King-Priest transcending earthly existence (Hebrews7:3). On earth Jesus our redeemer and high priest accomplishes the work of our redemption in, with and through his Church. He does this through an 'action' in which the whole community, the Church, the Body of Christ united with its head Jesus the Lord, is involved. How beautiful are the words of St Paul to the church in Colossae (in today's, Turkey) about who Christ is: "all things were created through Him and for Him...in Him all things hold together." (1:17)

The liturgy is at the heart of the Church. It expresses who Christians are, worshippers of the divine majesty, united in fellowship of faith and love symbolised by the exchange of peace at the celebration of the Eucharist and being the light of the world.(Mt 5:14).

Every liturgy that the whole Christ celebrates embraces the universe. It

encompasses angels and people, the living and the dead, the past, present and future, heaven and earth. It is Christ himself, as Head of the Church who acts in every celebration of the Eucharist through the bishops (or priests representing them in virtue of their ordination). The celebrant and the congregation participate in different ways in Christ's divine worship. A liturgical service is in the first place, a service that God performs for us - and only then it is our service offered to God. God gives himself to us under the form of familiar signs - so that we might do the same giving ourselves unreservedly to Him. Can the Church change the liturgy? Some components are not changeable, those that have a divine origin, like the words of Jesus at the last supper, but others can and indeed must be changed to make them meaningful in the different evolving cultures of the world. The life of the Church revolves around its liturgy. The liturgical year starts with Advent and ends the same time the following year. The readings at mass, are spread over a three-year cycle. The Sabbath (the Christian Sunday), the first day of the week is the memorial of the resurrection. of Jesus.

What helps us appreciate best the role of the liturgy in our life is the grasping of the pivotal role of Jesus Christ in God's plan of salvation. The divinity of Jesus combined with his humanity is the instrument of our salvation. Being fully a man, Jesus uses created realities like water and oil, bread and wine. The liturgy encompasses all the sacraments which are the actions of Christ as well as the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. It is the prayer of the Church worldwide at different times of the day. While liturgical celebrations involve the whole Church other prayers like the Stations of the Cross or the Rosary are technically described as 'devotional practice', approved by the Church but not part of the official Prayer of the Church.

We are familiar with the expression, Jesus is the 'man for others'. But we are apt to overlook the fact that Jesus was primarily the man for his Father. He was essentially a God-centred man. Teaching his disciples how to pray, Jesus starts by telling them to tell the Father, that they wish Him to be addressed as holy: "hallowed be thy name", placing him above everything else. This wish is most appropriately expressed in the liturgy when the congregation addresses God for who He essentially is: "Holy, holy, holy Lord God..."

No matter how conducted, the liturgy, to a person of faith, is an expression of indescribable beauty. It helps us become what God created us to be, God-centred persons. Without this, first-belong-to-God, dimension we are not fully human.: it is 'the light on the mountain', 'the salt of the earth'. The Father has planted it, Jesus is its first fruit, the Holy Spirit nourishes it. Our role is, in the words of St Boniface, the 8th century English

Benedictine monk who evangelised the Germanic part of France, "not to abandon this ship (the church) but to keep her on her course." Christianity is growing, how we do not know. (Mk 4:26 -29).

Alfred Agius

## Jerusalem: A City Longing for Peace

The etymology of the word Jerusalem is complicated, it can mean God's City, the City of Peace, or the City of the King. Whatever its origins, 'the city which longs for peace' seems to be an appropriate interpretation.

Like many clergy I have been to the Holy Land on pilgrimage several times, and each time I go my thirst for the land which tells the story of Jesus refuses to be quenched, this was never a 'once in a lifetime' thing for me.

Last October my son and I were due to

go to Jerusalem for a few days, but the October attacks and the resulting war in Gaza prevented that from happening.

It is July, and I am writing this from the Golden Walls Hotel in occupied East Jerusalem, escaping the midafternoon heat. Much has been written over the years about pilgrimages; each pilgrim has their own stories, collections of photographs and memories of their time here. My son Samuel has completed his A-Levels and I have been ordained 20 years, so Jerusalem seems like a good place to come to refocus on what the future holds.

Jerusalem is virtually empty, there are very few pilgrims here and the locals are struggling. The souq is moderately busy, there is still fresh orange juice in abundance along with baklava, falafel, and Arabic Coffee. I watched local children walk home from school, full of the usual laughter, noise, and playfulness I see in Slough. I was moved to encounter this, not far away children



are living very different lives.

The Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane were empty apart from my son and me. For a brief, passing moment I felt the sense of isolation and foreboding that Jesus must have experienced as he prayed to the Father that the cup be taken from him as his disciples slept. We were able to enter the Edicule in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre easily as there were no queues (which used to be 2-4 hours long). I doubt I will have this opportunity again.

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

The riches of this place are to be found not just in the holy sites which help to bring alive the story of God in the Bible, but also in the people, the 'living stones' keeping alive the rumour of Jesus in the land where he lived.

The headlines are full of stories about Israel-Palestine, the situation is complex;

but it is hard to ignore when I am here, nor should anyone try to do so. The land is about its people and the story they tell.

I read opinions expressed on social media, often detached or one-sided, failing to understand the reality of what life is like here.

At no point did I feel unsafe, other than the absence of pilgrims I would not have known that there was a war taking place, the airport at Tel Aviv was as busy as any other airport and the drive to Jerusalem revealed nothing of concern; our driver pointed out the illegal settlements on the West Bank and we passed a prison where many Palestinians are held without trial 'Administrative οn Detention.'. The people in Jerusalem were as warm and generous as ever and the stones continue to cry out for the deep Shalom of God to permeate a troubled land, a Shalom that seems far off and yet is strangely present in the faces of the 'living stones' who are to be treasured by the Church across the world.

I had the privilege of meeting the Dean of St Georges College, Richard Sewell, and his family, who said that the western church needs the church in the Holy Land more than it realises: he is right, and we need to listen to their voices. but it was good for my soul to be reminded of God's generosity and his immense grace which provides sustenance in the darkest of moments.

The Rev. Chris Ferris

## Langley Free Church - ts The non Liturgical Church

Elsewhere in this magazine you will find an excellent article by Alfred Agius on Liturgy and will understand it has much to do with services of Christian worship.

If you have been to a service in a Baptist church such as ours or a Brethren Assembly or Pentecostal church, you may have noticed that it has a different structure and may have been led completely by lay people.

At present we don't have a minister at Langley Free church and so all services are led by members of the congregation and the sermon is usually also given by a lay person.

This stems from the belief in the priesthood of all Christian believers and the way in which the church is governed by the local congregation. Typically hymns, or worship songs, will be interspersed with prayers and a sermon, or message, will be given. Holy Communion is taken once a month and the only other sacrament that we celebrate is Believer's Baptism when someone who has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour is baptised by full immersion.

We do not usually follow the pattern of other churches where Bible readings in services follow a set pattern from the Lectionary with the preacher usually basing the sermon on

some of them. Instead, this is usually left to the worship leader and speaker or where, as at present, we are following a series on Being Disciples. Services may include a time of Open Prayer when members of the congregation are invited to take part in an unstructured way. We do, as other churches, focus on special occasions such as Easter, Christmas and Harvest which we celebrate this year on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

In short, our Sunday services provide for spontaneity of worship, at least in theory.

Tony Randall

## Dee S Clark



B.Sc(Hons) MChs Dip.pod.med. Member of The Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists

## CHIROPODIST / PODIATRIST

**HCPC CH17351** 

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Slough

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Listen to expert financial advisors and lawyers talk about how to navigate the complexities of paying for social care, taxefficient legacy and inheritance tax planning and equity release. The session will also cover any benefits you may be missing out on, such as Attendance Allowance.

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## Discipleship and Self

In the early 1930s Germany one man, a young pastor and theologian stood out in his opposition to National Socialism and for his church to be genuinely Christ centred. His name was Dietrich Bonhoeffer and he wrote a very challenging book 'The Cost of Discipleship'. Later he was imprisoned, and executed in early 1945 for his part in a conspiracy to bring down Hitler. He wrote a number of poems in his prison cell, one of which was the serious question 'Who Am I?'.

We may not be in his extreme situation but it is a question we each might ask ourselves.

#### Who Am 1?

Who am I? They often tell me
I would step from my cell's confinement
calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
like a country squire from his country
house.

Who am I? They often tell me I would talk to my warders freely and friendly and clearly, as though it were mine to command.

Who am I? They also tell me I would bear the days of misfortune equably, smilingly, proudly, like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really all that which other men tell of?

Or am I only what I know of myself,

restless and longing and sick,
like a bird in a cage, struggling for breath,
as though hands were compressing my
throat,
yearning for colours, for flowers,
for the voices of birds,
thirsting for words of kindness,
for neighbourliness,
trembling with anger at despotisms and
petty humiliation,

tossing in expectation of great events, powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,

weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making;

faint, and ready to say farewell to it all?

Who am I? This or the other?

Am I one person today, and tomorrow another?

Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,

and before myself a contemptibly woe begone weakling?

Or is something within me still like a beaten army,

fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

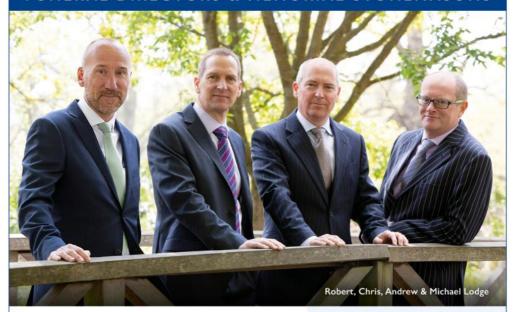
Who am I?

They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.

Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine

## Dietrich Bonhoeffer

#### **FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL STONEMASONS**



## OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY

For over 240 years, eight generations of the Lodge Family have been privileged to help local families in their time of need. We provide all funerals, whether modern, traditional, green or alternative, with care and compassion.

#### LANGLEY

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"The staff at Lodge Brothers have been sympathetic, understanding and supportive. They were with us every step of the way throughout a very difficult time and we are and will be forever grateful for their support."

★ ★ ★ ★ - Mr Robinson



www.lodgebrothers.co.uk



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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. o7894 535522 christthe worker@gmail.com

## Holy Family Catholic Church http://www.holyfamily.co.uk

Parish Priest: Canon Kevin O'Driscoll Deacon: Rev. Graham Jones Hall Hire: Mrs. Lisa Chong

All contactable at 01753 543770, parish.holyfamily@northamptondiocese.org Parish Worker: Mr Kieran McKeown 01753 543770 kieranmckeown50@yahoo.co.uk

## Langley Free Church www.langleyfree.org.uk/

Secretary: Paul Noyce 07831 428013 secretary@langleyfree.co.uk Hall Hire: Jenna Kralyik 07927 175182 bookings@langleyfree.co.uk bookings@langleyfree.co.uk