

Langley CENTRE OF MISSION

Winter 2021

All Change



Val was officially appointed as Lead Evangelist for Langley in early July and expected to move over the summer. However, finding a suitable property proved to be extremely difficult, so for the first half of the autumn term Val carried on working in Merlins Bridge and was delighted to be able to run one last prayer space in St Mark's School. We created a tree of hope, thinking about how the leaves that fall during the autumn provide nutrients etc for the soil and new growth in the spring. We also thought about how difficult things were with Covid 19 and the children's prayers often reflected what they hoped for when things improved.

Welcome to Langley

Finally in November Val was able to make the move to Langley to begin the next exciting adventure. Moving in the middle of a pandemic was quite an experience. Not being able to offer hospitality to the movers and trying to make sure everything went to the right place whilst not being in the same room as them felt very strange. There then followed a series of minor disasters, including no phone or broadband for a month whilst BT dug up the drive to re-lay the cable and a non-functioning oven (no baking!). Fortunately everything is now sorted.

Whilst the postal address for here is Oldbury, Langley is a distinct community and people here identify themselves as living in Langley. It has a small high street with mostly independent shops where you can, with a bit of hunting find most things. It also has 2 parks and a canal, all great places for meeting dog walkers. I am very lucky to live right by one of parks and have had some good initial conversations with people there. I am also within walking distance of both a library and a swimming pool and am really looking forward to using these when they reopen

Getting started

When I left Merlins Bridge St Mark's gave me a little lion. I decided to do a photo diary for them as I began work here, so took him to the local park. This led to several people asking what I was doing. I was then able to explain about the new Centre of Mission. One of the early conversations was with 2 grandparents, a mum and her small baby. They explained that they always use to go to church, weren't sure why they stopped and would seriously consider returning.



I have also been getting to know some of the local shop keepers (well the ones that are still able to open). They have been a good source of welcome and information.



The Christmas Giveaway

Christmas outreach had 2 foci. First Val visited every house in Barnfordhill Close, introducing herself and giving out angels. These were very well received and she is now building up good relationships with several of her neighbours. She has followed this up by delivering cards offering help, prayer or a chat in the current lockdown and Simeon also provided some calendars which have also been given out.

The weekend before Christmas, Val took candy canes out onto Langley High St and into Barnford Park to give out to families. Again these were well received and opened up conversations.

Moving Forward

In mid-January I was joined by pioneer Simeon Jarvis so now we are concentrating on building a good working relationship, gaining knowledge and insight into the community, establishing networks and making sure we have a good foundation of prayer and biblical reflection, seeking to see where God is at work. There is one particular place in Langley that we have been drawn to, so are praying into that.

We have also just launched Langley Centre of Mission Facebook page. A new experience for us both and neither of us are big Facebook user. It would really encourage us if you were able to follow us on.

We are also looking at using some of the upcoming celebrations in a creative, covid safe way.

Introducing Simeon



Hi All, I am originally from the Langley area but currently live in Wednesbury. I am looking for properties in the area and hope to move as soon as possible along with my wife Paige and our four children. Paige is expecting our fifth child in late summer, so we are very excited to see if God has gifted us with a baby boy or girl!! We can't wait to get into the area to get among the locals and see what God has planned for Langley Centre Of Mission.

Stop Press

Langley Centre of Mission is now on Facebook. Please like us.



Patron
HM The Queen

President
The Rt Revd & Rt Hon
Lord Williams of Oystermouth

Chief Executive
Canon Mark Russell

Registered office: Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield S3 7RZ.
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Prayers

Thank you God ...

- for calling Simeon and Val to Langley
- for the good initial conversations that have been had, especially with the shop owners
- for the relationships that are forming with Val's neighbours
- for other organisations in the area, that have been welcoming and supportive
- for the doors that have already opened for us

Please...

- pray for a suitable house for Simeon and his family
- pray for creativity and safety as we seek to make Jesus love known in the area
- pray for more opportunities to share the gospel in an effective and safe way.
- pray that we will be able to master technology and use it efficiently.
- pray for good relationship and volunteers to work alongside us
- pray for Simeon's children to be all accepted into the same primary school.
- pray that we use the links we have made wisely

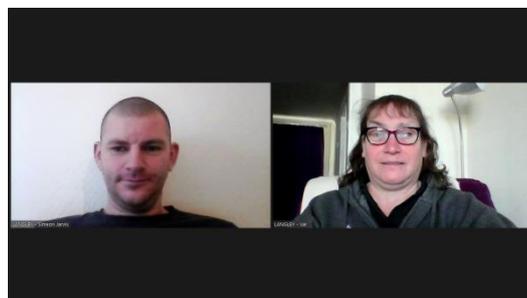
Financial Support

If you would like to make a regular or one-off gift to support this work please complete and return the form below or visit churcharmy.org/donate

We don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us. We would love to hear your news too and to pray for you so please let us know how we can.

Thank you!

Val & Simeon



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Langley CENTRE OF MISSION

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