

# Langley Centre of Mission

September 2022

## Val writes

### News in brief

- The work with Moat Farm infant’s school continues with in person assemblies. It was good to discover that my assemblies are being talked about in at least one home.
- I have met with the new head of RE at Q3 academy. She is redesigning the RE syllabus and is keen for me to be part of delivering specific parts of that and we are also exploring the possibility of chaplaincy.
- Getting DBSs done for Stay and Play has proved difficult and prevented us from starting this term. However, things now seem to be moving and we hope to start in September
- The monthly litter picks continue and it has become an opportunity to talk about God and creation as well as improve the local area.
- Having been given a huge amount of wool, mostly in baby colours, I have rallied family, friends and the local knit and natter group into making baby blankets, jackets and hats for premature babies. I am also experimenting with making twiddle muffs with some of the thicker wool

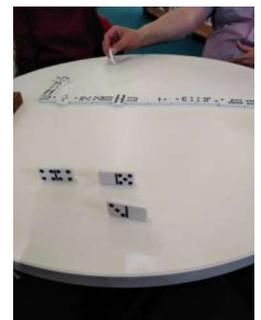
### Jubilee Fun Day



To celebrate the Queen’s platinum jubilee a big community event was held in Langley Park which I helped to organise. We provided free crafts and a football completion, which proved popular. It was a great opportunity to engage with lots of families and several people said how pleased they were to see the church taking an active part in the local community. I was then asked if I would be part of the local pub’s jubilee event the next day and do some crafts with the children there.

### CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)

CAMEO meets in Langley Library every Wednesday afternoon. The group started in response to meeting older people who said they were lonely and wanted a place to meet up and talk. There is now a small committed group, who enjoy playing dominoes and more recently cards. They are very friendly and welcoming, with numbers building slowly. It has been great to see people become more confident and they are starting to form community and look out for each other. One of the ladies is well known to the library staff and has a very difficult time over the last year. They have been amazed and delighted at the change in her since she started coming along.



## Langley Library

This has proved an invaluable link. Over the summer I have run 3 themed craft sessions for parents and children in the children's section which have proved popular and a great way to build links with the community. There have already hints at doing something similar in half term and/or Christmas holidays.

The library has also put me in touch with a support worker from Oak Tree Lodge and I am now starting to work with a small group of ladies with learning difficulties.



## Coveberry



The work at Coveberry continues and it has been good to have a definite point of contact with one member of staff who comes regularly and also to see some new faces. This term in response to the residents asking to do a mix of Old and New Testament themes, we started with creation and created bugs out of plastic Easter eggs. In June we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit and how Pentecost marks the birthday of the Church. We even had birthday cake to celebrate! Next we thought about Adam and Eve and the choices we all have to make. In August we built on this by looking at the example of the early church and how they chose to share things in common. We then put this into action by them taking the biscuits they had decorated to share with other residents and staff. It is good to know that it isn't just the residents who are benefitting from our services. One member of staff said that he had been to church as a child, even singing in the choir, but despite hearing many of the Bible stories he could never see the relevance. Now, through what we are doing, he says it is beginning to make a lot more sense.

## Simeon writes

### What's been happening

Since the last newsletter, things have moved slower than anticipated due to a few different hurdles, one being the DBS for one of our Volunteers. This has held up the stay and play group but finally we will be starting the group within the next week or so. The gym group, running group and snooker group continue to run steady and there are plans to create a cooking club.

Some of the guys I'd been encouraging have unfortunately found themselves on the wrong side of the law and have been incarcerated, but God has used these situations to open doors with the families of the men. After visiting one of the men in jail, his family got in touch with me and welcomed me to their house, asking me to pray with them. Other individuals that I've been encouraging have been going through some hard times with mental health so a lot of home visits and one to one meet ups have brought me closer to people in the community.

On a positive note, we have been truly blessed by receiving a new Vicar to the parish that has a heart for the people of Oldbury and Langley. Within a few weeks of him moving into the vicarage, he came and preached at the Living Well group. Great things are to come! Thank you, King Jesus!

## Prayers

### Thank you God...

- for the growing group of Living Well
- for the 2 volunteers that God has sent us
- for opening the door to Q3 academy and the developing relationship there
- for opening new doors and new possibilities in Langley
- for the support we receive from the library to run CAMEO and other activities

### Please pray for...

- the opportunity to work directly with Sycamore Lodge and the probation service
- growth, both numerically and spiritually at the Living Well group
- the staff and residents of Coveberry as we explore faith and what it means for them.
- the relationship with Q3 academy to grow and develop
- stay and play as we seek to serve the community.
- health, safety and protection for Val and Simeon as the work in Langley grows
- the opportunity to share with the wider diocese

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Thank you!

Val & Simeon

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