



BREAKOUT

The supporter magazine for Langley Trust

AUTUMN/WINTER 2024





In this edition we're exploring
our overarching value:

SEEKING TO BE CHRIST- LIKE

We seek to build a culture
that reflects Jesus'
teaching & His love.

WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION?

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**I WANTED TO THANK YOU PERSONALLY FOR YOUR
CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE TRUST. YOUR SUPPORT
AND PRAYERS TRULY HELP MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT
TO PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY.**

Stella Wint
Director of Care & Quality

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The executive team took a moment to see the Blackpool lights on their recent trip to visit Park View

WELCOME

Welcome to Breakout! My name is Stella and I am pleased to welcome you to this latest edition as you get to know the Directors here at Langley. By way of introduction, I am the Director of Quality and Care. When I first came to Langley I planned to stay for one year but I am now in my 30th year with the Trust. I wish I could say I started when I was a child and I'm still in my thirties but sadly this is not the case!



In my current role I have oversight of the Care Team who assess and negotiate packages of care for clients in our Complex Needs Care services, the Quality Department who review the quality of our service delivery, the Development Department involved in bidding for new services, and lastly our Learning & Development department.

'Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.' This quote – attributed to either Confucius or Mark Twain depending where you look – describes perfectly how I feel about working for Langley. It is such a privilege to work for an organisation that makes such an impact on people's lives every day.

In my role it is a joy to visit our services and meet clients and staff. Recently our executive team paid a visit to Park View, one of our extra care services in the North of England. Park View was recently inspected by the Care Quality Commission and we were thrilled to receive such positive feedback from this inspection:



'Clients told us they felt safe and comfortable living at Park View. One stated, "The staff are really good here, they go out of their way to look after you, which takes my mind off things." Another

added, "They're very good at checking how I'm feeling emotionally and to deal with things safely."

The inspection report is a real testament to the staff at Park View living

out the Trust values. Read more about Park View on page 8.

Lastly, I wanted to thank you personally for your continued interest in the Trust. Your support and prayers truly help make a positive impact to people and communities around the country.

Stella Wint
Director of Care & Quality

I PLANNED TO STAY FOR ONE YEAR BUT I am now in my 30TH YEAR WITH THE TRUST.

Wearing the right and most appropriate clothing for the weather is important. As someone who takes their holidays in a tourer caravan an essential skill is to take along the right clothing (usually something for every season!). As I discovered a few weeks back my holiday companions sometimes forget this golden rule and therefore experience the freshness of our climate!

Looking out of the window now the season has very much changed since those summer months.

This new season will no doubt bring new challenges and new opportunities for the Trust. **A new season means we may need to put on new clothing that is more appropriate to our new context.**

I love the phrase: *God does not call the equipped, He equips the called.* I know that whatever skills, experience, knowledge or any other equipment we need for the coming season, God will provide it in the appropriate time. Looking back, I can see how we have had the 'right people' with the 'right equipment' when we needed it, and for that I am truly grateful. Indeed looking back I believe we have had a blessed journey, one in which the Trust has grown not just in numbers but also developed and grown internally to be more consistent in our Christ-like ethos and culture. When I look back I also can see so many of our clients have grown and developed too.

A new season means we may need to put on new clothing more appropriate to our new context.

I want to close with a story of one of our clients JT who lives in Chatterton Hey in Bury. JT recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Our staff and other clients celebrated with him and they even brought a singer in to sing JT's favourite songs, why? Because Chatterton Hey is his home and

we want JT to understand he is cared for and belongs to that little community. You may think there is nothing special in that but these 'ordinary' moments allow those who have often felt rejected by society to belong and feel cared for, we know these ordinary moments transform lives. I want to take time to thank all of our staff and volunteers that help our clients on a daily basis feel cared for and have a place to belong.

Every blessing,

Tracy

Tracy Wild
CEO



CEO update





“THESE ‘ORDINARY’ MOMENTS ALLOW THOSE WHO HAVE OFTEN FELT REJECTED BY SOCIETY TO BELONG AND FEEL CARED FOR, WE KNOW THESE ORDINARY MOMENTS TRANSFORM LIVES.”

Park View

Park View is situated in the coastal town of Fleetwood in Lancashire. Originally built on the fishing and railway industries Fleetwood is now known for it's large market and boasts miles of seafront – from remote beaches to traditional English seaside. It is also just a stone's throw from the large, bustling seaside town of Blackpool.

We caught up with Bella, who is from the local area and started working at Park View as a support worker over 7 years ago and is now the service manager here.

Tell us about Park View

Park View offers supported housing with extra care for up to 10 men in Fleetwood. It is made up of a large house and 3 dispersed houses in the community. Clients will come to us with various levels of needs such as mental health, physical health, disabilities, addictions or just needing help rehabilitating back into the community.

What is Fleetwood and the area around the service like?

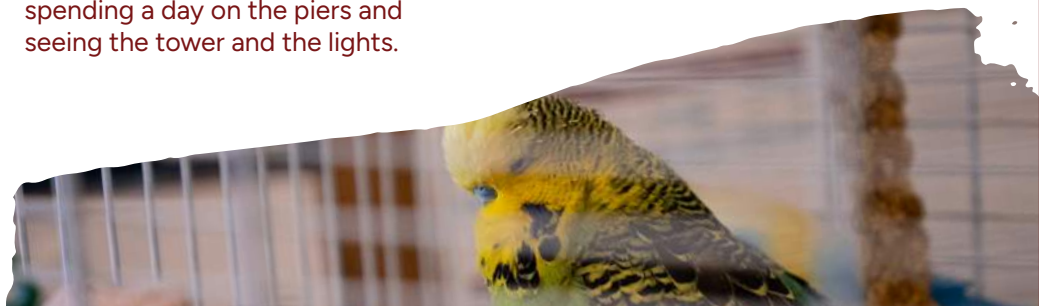
We're called Park View because of the view of the park we have nearby, which is great for clients to be able to go for walks and get exercise. Fleetwood is not a big town so it's ideal, they can get everywhere very easily without getting lost – down to the seafront, the shopping village, the doctors etc.

What activities do you get up to to help clients develop and feel at home?

Because we're a small service everyone is close and we're available if clients need us. We have a hot meal in the evenings which brings people together. Staff will help prepare meals and encourage clients to get involved with the food and washing up. We're lucky to have Blackpool on our doorstep. There's so much to do there and clients really look forward to trips out together each year like to the Pleasure Beach, or the zoo or just spending a day on the piers and seeing the tower and the lights.

What are the encouragements and challenges of the role?

Whenever a new client arrives you really want that client to be a success. But even if this doesn't always happen quickly I love being able to celebrate the small successes on their journeys – especially for longer term clients. Simple things like having a shower that day or staying sober for a short time, these might seem small but they are big steps for some of our clients and it is really important to recognise them.





How does our value of being Christ-like impact your work here?

The fact that we're a Christian organisation that seeks to be Christ-like provides a framework to help us support our clients. It encourages us to be patient, compassionate and caring, all things that are a real benefit to them. First and foremost, we need to see our clients as people, as Christ would, and so our values and ethos help us to do this.

We have a great chaplain, John, who works tirelessly and spends a lot of time visiting each client. He will run a church service here once a month and clients will input into the hymns they sing etc. Even if they are not religious some will still attend and really enjoy it. This is one of the other things that encourages a sense of community.



A person with short brown hair, wearing a tan jacket and dark pants, is walking away from the camera on a paved path. The path is lined with trees and greenery, and the sun is shining through the trees in the background, creating a bright, hazy effect. A large, light blue, torn-edge graphic is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the title and a disclaimer.

Jay's STORY*

*Names have been changed to
protect the people in our care

What was life like before you came to Park View?

It was hard, I was in a bad way. I smoked weed in my younger days but I've been clean for 10 years now, no alcohol for 10 years, no cannabis for 10 years, no drugs for 10 years. Before I came here I was in hospital for a long time. I got pneumonia...and then I was in a coma for 4 weeks. After I moved, they found me this place and they have changed my life around.

How did it feel when you first arrived here?

When I first come here I didn't know anyone. I had to get to know them – the people that live here and the people that work here. It was kind of hard, but it got easier as the months went by. I got to know everyone, started to settle down. And then everything was okay... It makes you feel like you're home when you're here.

What are you thankful for in your time here?

I've never been to a place like this. The last 15 months since I've been here, they have been really good to me. This is the best place I've ever been in. They are nice people, they do lots for you, and help you and keep you out of trouble. I can't read or write so they help reading letters, they help me out with my phone and doing texts.

I'm just getting over losing my son. You know what I mean? I'm just getting over it now. The staff support me, they do respond, they're really good about it. I'm still grieving a bit but they talk to me like a proper person.

Langley is a Christian charity that seeks to be Christ-like, how does this impact you?

I do believe in going to church. It's a very good thing going to church. Very good thing to give your heart to the Lord, and believe in God and all that, and be holy. The chaplain John, he comes here some Sundays and the weekdays. He is a very good chaplain, he comes and prays with us and I sit down and pray with him.

What would you say to someone about to move to Park View?

I'd say to them to keep their head down, get along with the staff, get along with the lads... just be yourself, and things will get better, and it'll help you to move on to a better place. That's what I say. And they really will get the help because I did, I got the help I needed. It really is a good place. And good luck to them.

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**THIS IS THE BEST PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN IN.
THEY ARE NICE PEOPLE, THEY DO LOTS FOR YOU,
AND HELP YOU AND KEEP YOU OUT OF TROUBLE.**

CHANGE THAT LASTS a LIFETIME

It is a real encouragement to hear stories from clients in our services who are on a journey of recovery or development, seeking to rebuild their lives or make small steps towards independence.

Recently we've had the privilege of hearing from two clients from our history who reached out to say thank you for the impact that staff and services had on their lives many years ago... impact that has lasted them a lifetime!

**IT IS WITH GREAT FONDNESS THAT
I REFLECT ON MY TIME THERE
AND THE SUPPORT I RECEIVED.**

**LANGLEY TRUST
RESTARTED MY LIFE
ALL THEM YEARS AGO.**

PERSON 1

"I stayed at one of your houses in 1980 for a few months. I spent time at a detention centre before moving to Coventry into one of your houses, then to Wakefield. The staff there helped this daft 18-year-old lad a great deal. I settled and never looked back.

As a newly retired 60-year-old, Langley Trust restarted my life all them years ago. I have spent my life working and you can class me as a success. Please pass this along to all your houses to show your work... works!

My life was going into a dark pit until Langley Trust and the help I received. Life's been good but I've never forgotten my past and folk look amazed when on the odd occasion I tell them!"



PERSON 2

"50 years ago I was discharged from prison on parole. I was fortunate enough to have completed a welding course and secured a place in Langley. It is with great fondness that I reflect on my time there and the support I received. I never looked back. Those months there helped set me up for the rest of my life. The chap that ran it was a gentleman and I just thought I ought to say thank you.

I often wonder where I would be now if Langley Trust had not helped me sort myself out. Fortunately, I was one of the lucky ones. It cannot be stressed enough how much your charity is needed. I imagine these days more than ever.

All the best for the future."



SHINING A LIGHT ON SILAS THIS CHRISTMAS

In the summer we launched our Silas appeal asking if you would be a 'faithful companion' to our chaplains, just as Silas was a 'faithful companion' (1 Peter 5) to Paul on his missionary journeys. Paul commended Silas for his partnership in the gospel and many of you responded to our invite to partner with our chaplains who work in our services week by week, sharing the love and good news of Jesus with our clients.

THANK YOU to the many of you who gave to that appeal.

As Christmas starts to draw near and Christmas lights will begin to brighten the skies of many of our towns and streets, we'd like to shine a light on this appeal once again and invite you to give to the work of our chaplains.

Befriending clients, praying for our staff, running Alpha courses, bible studies and Christmas carol services, our chaplains are ambassadors for the kingdom of God. They are seeking to **shine a light** on the love and truth of Jesus Christ – friend of the outcasts, the forgotten and despised.

And our chaplains need your prayers and support (your pounds). Next year we plan to invite clients on our first Encounter Days where, for the first time, some of them will encounter Christian worship, Bible teaching and prayer ministry all in the safety of a day set up just for them.

Just as the lights of Blackpool, where our Executive team recently met, light up a mile of coastline, so we want to light up the horizon of so many of those we work with.

Jesus is the light of the world. This Christmas as you give thanks for

"THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT"

John 1:5

Jesus' birth and your own rebirth when you first met him, can we invite you once again to give to our Silas appeal, as a thank offering for the incarnate word of God, the one whose light never goes out and who has lightened the darkness of millions over 1000's of years.

Acts 16 tells of Silas and Paul singing in the dark of night in prison, the earth shook with their worship and the doors flew open. Their jailer came to faith, his family followed, and the following day Silas and Paul were set free! Why not partner with us – and we may see similar miracles across Langley.

- » Your Silas gift could light up the life of even one of our clients this Christmas.
- » Our chaplains, with your partnership, will work to bring the light of Jesus to the lives of those we serve at this most poignant, festive but sometimes lonely time of the year.

COULD YOU HELP US FINANCIALLY?

£5 a MONTH

would support the cost of one participant at a client encounter day

£11 a MONTH

would support one hour of full-time chaplaincy team ministry

£25 a MONTH

would support Alpha and bible studies across the Trust

£60 one-OFF

would cover a client to attend an Encounter Day

£132 one-OFF

covers an hour a month of chaplaincy ministry for the year

£300 one-OFF

to cover the costs of an Alpha course

**IF YOU ALREADY GIVE REGULARLY WHY NOT
CONSIDER A ONE-OFF SILAS GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

We wish you, your friends
and family a peaceful and
joyful Christmas

scan to donate!



HOW TO DONATE TO THE SILAS INITIATIVE

Please scan the QR code which
will take you straight to our
donation page. Alternatively,
head to langleytrust.org/silas



PHOTOBOOTH



INTERVIEWS



DRUM ROLL...



WINNER!

CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

One of the many highlights of working for Langley are our People Conferences, held every other year. This year we had 345 attendees over our two venues. Staff, volunteers, trustees and several clients joined together to consider the theme of being 'Invited'.

Celebration and thanks are always a key feature. As well as attendees receiving a gift and hand-written card from their manager, we also get to celebrate our People Awards. These attracted over 160 nominations this year and 11 staff members received their awards at the conferences. One award allows clients to nominate staff directly, which was done by 17 clients who shared heart-warming testimonials of the support they received. The final category, the Langley Champion Award, was voted for at the conferences and the winner announced live.

These events provide opportunity for staff to hear directly from our leaders, including a devotion and reminder of our vision and values. Attendees get to interact and input ideas and, as always, one of the highlights is hearing clients share testimonies live on stage. These are always deeply moving stories of why we do what we do, but are also a significant moment for these clients to be able to stand up and speak in front of so many people.

This year staff appreciated the offer to book prayer time with our chaplains and our interactive marketplace which showcased Langley's various teams and services. The conferences truly lend themselves to staff having a fun day together and our bloopers video, free ice-cream van and photo booth injected much frivolity into a fabulous couple of days!

Visit: langleytrust.org/careers or scan the QR code below.

THERE ARE LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN OUR STAFF TEAMS AT LANGLEY... FOR YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW.

LANGLEYTRUST.ORG/CAREERS

Find out more



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Seeking to be Christ-like

Like many others I first started listening to podcasts during the covid years and from time to time someone suggests a new podcast to me that hooks me. As I write this I am hooked on 'Things Unseen' by Sinclair B. Ferguson. The warm Scottish tones of this older and wiser man of God cheer my heart as his biblical teaching inspires my mind.

Recently on 'Things Unseen' Ferguson spoke about two key principles of holiness – what we at Langley describe as Christlikeness – that came from the teachings of 17th century pastors and theologians. One of these principles came from John Owen, who, Ferguson says, suggests that "we measure growth in holiness, not by the height someone seems to have reached or the place they have arrived, but by the distance a person has travelled to get where they have arrived, and especially by the obstacles they've overcome to get there."

If you think about it, this makes sense, it fits with the topsy turvy upside down nature of the kingdom of God. Perhaps it is why Jesus

spent so much time with lepers, prostitutes, publicans and tax collectors. Jesus knew that if they could only see God and his unlimited love, they would move towards him and even just a few steps in his direction would be counted as massive in the kingdom of heaven.

Maybe this talk of holiness is muddling, so let me put it another way, to paraphrase 1 Peter 1 would be to read "Be Christ-like, because I am the Christ", when of course what we read most often here is: "Be holy because I am holy" 1 Peter 1.16

As we seek to be Christ-like, let us move towards him the author and perfecter of our faith. And as we do, we pray that he would display his love through us, and that those around us would move, even if it is just a few steps, in his direction.



Rev Andy Rider
Director of Chaplaincy Services

"BE CHRIST-LIKE, BECAUSE I AM THE CHRIST"

1 PETER 1

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**BIBLICAL CHANGE IS NOT THE
ABSENCE OF STRUGGLES
BUT THE FREEDOM TO
CHOOSE HOLINESS IN THE
MIDST OF OUR STRUGGLES.**

Christopher Yuan





**THANKS FOR READING THIS EDITION.
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Please direct any queries, comments
or feedback to us at

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