



# BREAKOUT

The supporter magazine for Langley Trust

**SPRING 2025**





A man with a shaved head, wearing safety glasses and a white face mask, is bent over a workbench. He is using a white heat gun with a black hose to work on a piece of wood. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and tan work pants. The background is a plain white wall. The text 'a FRESH START' is overlaid in large, bold, dark red letters on the right side of the image.

# a FRESH START

A client restoring an old garden bench in the workshop at Murray Lodge

# WELCOME

## Welcome to Breakout Spring 2025 edition.

**T**his time of year there is a fresh feel to the air. We see signs of new life sprouting from the earth, and if we're lucky we may start to feel at least the hope of warmer days to come. It's like we have a fresh start every spring.

In truth, at Langley, we are looking for signs of new life and fresh starts all year round. Small indications of light and hope in our clients who's lives could often be compared to very long and hard winters. But thanks to God we do see signs of new life, and we get to witness lives completely transformed. Whether that be a client simply getting out of bed and getting washed, volunteering to pick up litter in the local area, reaching out to help a fellow client, or even experiencing forgiveness in Christ.

In this edition you will read stories and hear news of all the above, and more, as we reflect on the fresh start, and new life that this season brings.

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# THE MAGIC ERASER

# CEO UPDATE

Recently I bought a magic eraser online. A magic eraser is a special sponge which when damp will remove a whole host of marks and scuffs on paintwork and no doubt other surfaces! I found myself engrossed for some time dashing round the house rubbing out scuff marks on my paintwork. I know it sounds odd, but it really did make me feel good to be able to look anew at the paintwork without the annoying marks of old!

Sadly, we cannot use a magic eraser to take out the blemishes in our own or in other people's lives, these blemishes and stains are because of wrong choices. They are like a pebble dropped into a pool, they ripple out negativity into other people's lives and into the places we live and dwell. As a Christian and as a Christian organisation we know Jesus does give us this opportunity to have true renewal and restoration, a real ability to wipe clean forever these blemishes within our own life.

Clearly the consequence of wrongdoing often remains within our society but one day we will indeed also see this restored when we meet God face to face in heaven.

I am grateful that this restoration is free and available to all (in fact just a prayer away). It is life changing, literally not just aesthetically, but it truly changes us from within. I myself have benefited from this and I know many colleagues and clients too have known this life changing fresh start.

I enter this time of year with gratitude for all the opportunities that are coming, I thank God for all my colleagues, volunteers, and supporters of the Trust. It really makes a difference having your support. May God bless you in this coming season.

Tracy

**Tracy Wild**  
Chief Executive



Please note, throughout this publication names and faces are sometimes changed or hidden to protect people in our care.





Throughout this issue of Breakout we have captured stories of baptisms across Langley.



Look out for this icon

## **KLAUDIA**

### **Night Support Worker**

I started working for Langley Trust in February 2023 which changed my view about religion and what I believed. I since became a Christian and my heart opened to Jesus – I've found I'm changing as a person every day which is an amazing experience. Being baptised is just the beginning of my relationship with Jesus. I also now have the ability to meet with friends. Before I was baptised, I really struggled to trust anybody.

Now my life is about being involved in my church and volunteering in our church café. I am grateful for the Langley team for being part of my transformation and the support given to me in growing in my faith each and every day.

**44**

**I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE LANGLEY TEAM FOR BEING PART OF MY TRANSFORMATION AND THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO ME IN GROWING MY FAITH EACH AND EVERY DAY**

# A BREATH OF FRESH AIR MURRAY LODGE

LOCATION: COVENTRY

**O**ver 55 years ago, an approach to the local council for support to start a new type of service in Coventry led to a remarkable offer that has since changed many people's lives. Instead of offering financial help, Coventry City Council fully funded and purpose-built Murray Lodge for Langley to operate out of. Opening its doors in 1969, its unique vision was to support teenagers and adolescents, some with only one offence behind them and often from broken homes, to rebuild their lives. Over 55 years later Murray Lodge is still going strong...

After joining them for their 9:30am Breakfast Club, where a volunteer comes in to cook for clients every Tuesday (and Christmas Day last year), we caught up with Kelly (pictured below), the service manager, who was happy to tell us more about the service and clients.



## Tell us about Murray Lodge and what you do here?

We are a 14-bed hostel with additional properties across Coventry providing clients with increasing levels of independence as they move on into the community.

Day-to-day at Murray Lodge we seek to inspire hope. Our clients often come from traumatic or chaotic lives and the lodge gives them a space to breathe. We work with each client helping them work towards goals, whether that's long-term accommodation, volunteering, employment or simple life skills like cooking or even learning to read and write.

## Service Spotlight



Murray lodge in the 1990s

Did you know?  
Murray Lodge  
featured in a  
BBC Inside Out  
documentary in  
the 90s.



Watch here

[langleytrust.org/inside-out](http://langleytrust.org/inside-out)

## What is unique to Langley, compared to other places you've worked?

I've worked in this industry and the homeless sector for a long time and for me, Langley being a Christian organisation makes all the difference. It allows us to not just have a positive impact on lives practically but if a client wants they can bring faith into it as well.

Here we actually get the opportunity and have time to make a real difference in our guys' lives, even if that's simply looking a client in the eye when they are at their lowest and saying "It's ok, we've got you".



## What are the main challenges that you face?

Obviously it can be hard, there are weeks when there are more tears than smiles, days when people are recalled to prison or we have to evict someone.

One challenge is resources to give our clients purposeful activity to keep them busy and motivate them to make change. For example we want to develop the woodworking shed (*see page 2*), we have a client who has brought his own tools in but we need a workbench and more tools, I've got a punch bag with nothing to hang it up on, we have huge gardens that we could create an allotment in – but all this needs more time, people, volunteers, funding... and prayers!

## What are the most rewarding parts of the work?

There are many stories that we could share. One of the special things I find here is that clients often want to help each other out – we have guys who have put on cookery classes for others. We had a guy who was doing all the gardens, and going out litter picking locally with others. Another client struggled a lot with alcohol and two clients took him under their wing, and now he's clean and he's moved out to more independent accommodation.

Not everything is a big win, but it's actually to see those little wins too. Progress in well-being, getting up in the morning, making your bed, getting washed... doing those little things, they are the big wins for some of our guys.

*Read David's story, Murray Lodge client, on page 10.*



# Langley BY numbers

Over the coming editions of Breakout we are excited to share some of our stats demonstrating the impact you are having through your support. Take a look at some of our numbers highlighting our people and the work of our chaplaincy teams.

## OUR PEOPLE

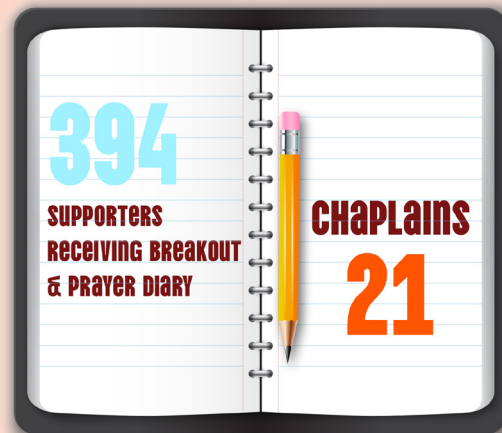
**1778**

CLIENTS RECEIVED OUR SERVICES  
(LAST YEAR)

**56**

VOLUNTEERS

**350** STAFF





## CHAPLAINCY IN 2024

1

National  
Day of  
Prayer

Staff &  
Volunteer  
Encounter Days

2

16+ clients in 5 services  
attended Christian basics courses

251+

PRAYER MEETINGS RUN

LEADERS  
RETREAT  
ATTENDEES

74

STAFF IN OUR PRAYER NETWORK

62

15

STAFF ATTENDED ONLINE ALPHA

BAPTISMS  
LAST  
YEAR

4



87

DEVOTIONS  
WRITTEN,  
RECORDED,  
SHARED

1143+

CHAPLAINCY HOURS RECORDED

648+

VISITS TO SERVICES OR  
HOUSES BY CHAPLAINS

# ALISHA

## Care Team Leader



When I started at Langley I felt I was spiritual but I wasn't a practicing Christian. I still had questions in my mind about what Christianity was, but had a strong feeling I was meant to be working at The Knole.

I was invited to the staff alpha course but I missed the first sessions due to my mum having a stroke. Work was very supportive and prayed for my mum regularly and then I joined alpha despite missing some sessions. Whilst doing this I felt I witnessed a couple of miracles and started to attend church, which finally led to my baptism.

Being baptised I felt that new life for me had started. Walking my life now alongside Jesus, all my doubt and anxiety has left me as I know I am never alone.



# a FRESH START

## STORY OF NEW LIFE

**"The night before I met Sarah I was going to throw a towel in with my life. I was done, and I planned it..." Read about David, a Murray Lodge client, and how his meeting with a chaplain transformed the course of his life completely.**

### What was life like before you came to Murray Lodge?

My background is horrendous. I've had a lot of trauma in my life, and some of it is my fault - I don't want to blame anybody. I was full of hatred, I had hatred for very specific people in my life and I wished horrible things on them. I've done horrible things. I was hanging around with a lot of drug dealers, football hooligans, and they were my friends from childhood.

So yeah it was a bit of a hectic life. I came out of prison, came straight to Murray Lodge. It was a bit nerve wracking because I didn't know the lads there, I didn't know the staff. But then I met Sarah - she changed my life.

### Tell us about how things changed?

I'm going to be honest with you... the night before I met Sarah, our chaplain at Murray Lodge, I was going to throw a towel in with my life. That night I was done, and I planned it. I saved all my medication up and I was going to do it that day.

Then I met Sarah and there was something about her, I don't know - well now I know - but when I walked upstairs all the negative thoughts were gone, suicidal thoughts were gone. I sat there and thought, that's really strange. Sarah suggested I prayed and at first I just laughed. But then the next day I prayed and... my whole body changed, my thought patterns changed.



**see David's  
FULL STORY and  
VIDEO HERE**

[langleytrust.org/david](http://langleytrust.org/david)







### What did you pray?

This is the most important thing for me... for 30 years I've had pure hatred in my life and in my heart for specific people. I've wished horrendous things on them. And when I spoke to God, I just asked for forgiveness for them thoughts. And I felt that anger taken away. And, then I said to the Lord, please just, just take everything away.

### How have you experienced forgiveness?

I asked God to forgive me, but I had to forgive someone too. I had real hatred for someone, I really did. But when I look at him now I can say to myself "I forgive you now."

People say the best things in life are free. But the best thing in life is to be free. And when I forgave him, the freedom I now have in my heart is immense. I hated him with such a passion that I just wished horrible things on him but I shouldn't do that because he's my brother. But now I forgive him and, and we talk... and that's massive!

### What is different in your life now?

Calm, calmness. I've got calmness around me now. I've had to step away from my friends, from my old friends who I grew up with. My life hasn't been a bed of roses but I haven't looked back. I go to church now. I do an addiction meeting on Wednesdays with others and we invite the homeless in, we pray for them. I do voluntary work for my church, I work in the garden. I help the lads at Murray Lodge as much as I can... *Read and watch more of David's story at the link on page 10.*



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**PEOPLE SAY THE BEST THINGS  
IN LIFE ARE FREE. BUT THE BEST  
THING IN LIFE IS TO BE FREE.**

# NEWS ROUND-UP

## THE SILAS INITIATIVE

Last year we ran our Silas Initiative asking for more 'Silases' to partner with our chaplaincy team to make a huge impact in the lives of those we work with.

We hope this edition of Breakout has given a glimpse into the work and impact of our chaplains and more – please continue to pray, and prayerfully consider, how you can support:



[langleytrust.org/silas](https://langleytrust.org/silas)

**Donations and legacies in recent years have supported us to open and fit a brand new, state of the art complex needs care home in Kent, funded hours and hours of chaplaincy work, enabled us to put on our largest Leaders' Retreat ever and run our first Encounter Days for staff – with much more in the pipeline!**

## Leave a LASTING Legacy

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN LEAVE A GIFT TO  
LANGLEY IN YOUR LEGACY? OVER THE YEARS  
WE HAVE HAD THE REAL PRIVILEGE OF BEING  
INCLUDED IN LEGACIES OF MANY LANGLEY  
FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS**

If you would like more information about leaving a legacy  
please get in touch by email:  
[louisa.abdulazeez@langleytrust.org](mailto:louisa.abdulazeez@langleytrust.org)

### IN 2024:

**NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS: 209**

**NUMBER OF NEW SUPPORTERS: 25**

**NUMBER OF GIFTS: 1298**

**AMOUNT RAISED: £158,229**





## NEW PREBENDARY OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



**REV ANDY RIDER**

We have the great joy of sharing the news with you, and congratulating Andy, following his appointment as one of the new Prebendaries of St Paul's Cathedral. This honorary role is in recognition of the huge impact Andy has had in the London area over many years of service. Alongside his work in the Church of England, Andy has been involved with Langley as a Trustee since 2003, and more recently as our Director of Chaplaincy Services.

## KADESH GETS STRAIGHT 'A'S

Our services are subject to external inspections to assess their quality and performance. These inspections are important and involve a lot of work and preparation for our staff.

We want to celebrate with Kadesh in Rochester – our newest service – who were inspected by the local council last year. This came not long after they opened and involved staff and clients being interviewed.

Kadesh received 'A's across the board – which is the highest grade. Well done to all involved in providing this excellent service to our clients.



## DAY OF PRAYER 2025

**Save the date:**  
**July 3rd, 7am to 7pm**

At Langley, we have so much to celebrate and to thank the Lord for. All we do and all we have depends on Jesus. We believe that, when we humble ourselves, pray and seek the LORD's face, he hears and brings healing and transformation. As in previous years we want to invite you to join the Langley Day of Prayer. More details to come.



## AN AWARD WINNING ORGANISATION

**Langley are winners of the Investors in People award for Best Culture 2024.**

We were delighted at the end of last year to be awarded with the prestigious Investors in People's award for Best Culture (organisations with more than 250 staff). Our work culture is so important to us as we seek to be Christ-like in all that we do. This award is the result of everyone's contribution – staff, clients, volunteers and our supporters.

It's those everyday actions, prayers and choices we all make that help to develop our culture. Thank you for the part you continue to play.





## JEFF

### Client

I am thankful for the opportunity to attend Alpha at Langley as this has transformed my life. I am also thankful for my chaplain and the team at my service.

My baptism has made me more secure, and I feel God's protection and presence. I feel like I am secure in him and that my life has had a fresh start. I also pray for and look to help others now.

## ABI

### Chaplain

Jeff joined the Alpha course we ran at the service. He asked questions, contributed well and purposefully and was absolutely committed to the whole course. Praise God that during this time he gave his life to the Lord, and was led to baptism at church last year.

He now regularly attends church and is very supportive of our work at the home where he lives. He is a shining example of how God can work within a person's life because of their willingness to let God change him. He is involved in weekly Bible study as well as outreach in the community because he longs for others to know Jesus like him.

Please note, throughout this publication names and faces are sometimes changed or hidden to protect people in our care.



# Dean

## Service Manager The Knole



It has been such an honour to be part of two of my team members' journeys with Christ. The staff Alpha that Klaudia and Alisha joined last year was a real blessing to them, and to so many of my team in the past. It engaged them with the foundations of our faith and how this fits with Langley values.

I was invited to their baptisms last year, and this was a highlight of 2024. **Praise God for all he is able to do.**



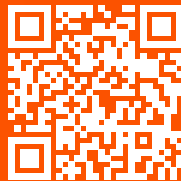
**BEING BAPTISED I FEEL THAT  
a new LIFE FOR me HAS  
STARTED...as I KNOW I am now  
never alone.**

Alisha - The Knole (See page 9)



A photograph of two men in a room. On the left, a man with a long grey beard and brown hair is seen in profile, looking towards the right. On the right, a man with short grey hair and a beard is smiling and looking towards the first man. They are in a room with a large green plant in the background and two small framed pictures on the wall. An orange banner with a torn edge is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**HELP LANGLEY CONTINUE IT'S LIFE  
TRANSFORMING WORK BY SPREADING  
THE WORD**



**LANGLEYTRUST.ORG/welcome**

# SPREAD THE WORD

**R**eflecting on our recent history, it has often been said that Langley is one of the UK churches' best kept secrets! Naturally there are risks associated with being too public about our work, not everyone in society is in the game of giving people second, third, fourth chances...

**BUT** we also have many, many supporters and partners who, without any doubt, have transformed lives through your prayers, gifts, volunteering hours etc. There are countless stories of God working at Langley in the lives of broken people – staff and clients – that we want to share more widely, so that more people are impacted, and God is given the glory.

## Can you help us?

We would love to see more and more people and churches involved in our work – praying, supporting, giving, celebrating, working for, volunteering...

## How can you help?

**With this Breakout we have included 3 flyers. Please consider giving these to any of your friends, family or church leaders who might be interested in learning about Langley.**

If you would like more flyers please get in touch here: [info@langleytrust.org](mailto:info@langleytrust.org)





# A new THING

## PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

As we journey through the year, we find that there are many times that are seen as an opportunity to begin again. New Year's resolutions, the opportunity to assess during Lent and the fresh new start that Easter brings us, only highlight the desire in humankind to try again. To leave behind what is in the past and embrace the chance to do something different or become what we have been made to be.

One of the most beautiful facets to God's character, is His mercy and desire to help us begin again. His desire to draw us in, heal us of our wounds and show us that the start we have had in life, or the past that we have behind us; does not have to dictate the future we have.

This powerful truth is what I see Langley Trust seeking to show staff and clients day in and day out and it is a truth that I believe changes lives. One of my favourite Bible verses is Isaiah 43:19 "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

My prayer for us all, as we approach springtime and begin to think of clearing out the old and beginning afresh, is that we remember the God who offers this opportunity with delight in His heart; and we find the courage to embrace all He has for us and allow Him to make a path to bring us through the wilderness and fully into the life He has for us all.

**Louise Tompkinson**

Murray Lodge - Volunteer Chaplain







“

**SEE I AM DOING A NEW THING! NOW IT  
SPRINGS UP, DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT? I  
AM MAKING A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS  
AND STREAMS IN THE WASTELAND.**

Isaiah 43:19



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

Please direct any queries, comments  
or feedback to us at

**T** 03330 035 025 **E** [info@langleytrust.org](mailto:info@langleytrust.org)

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