

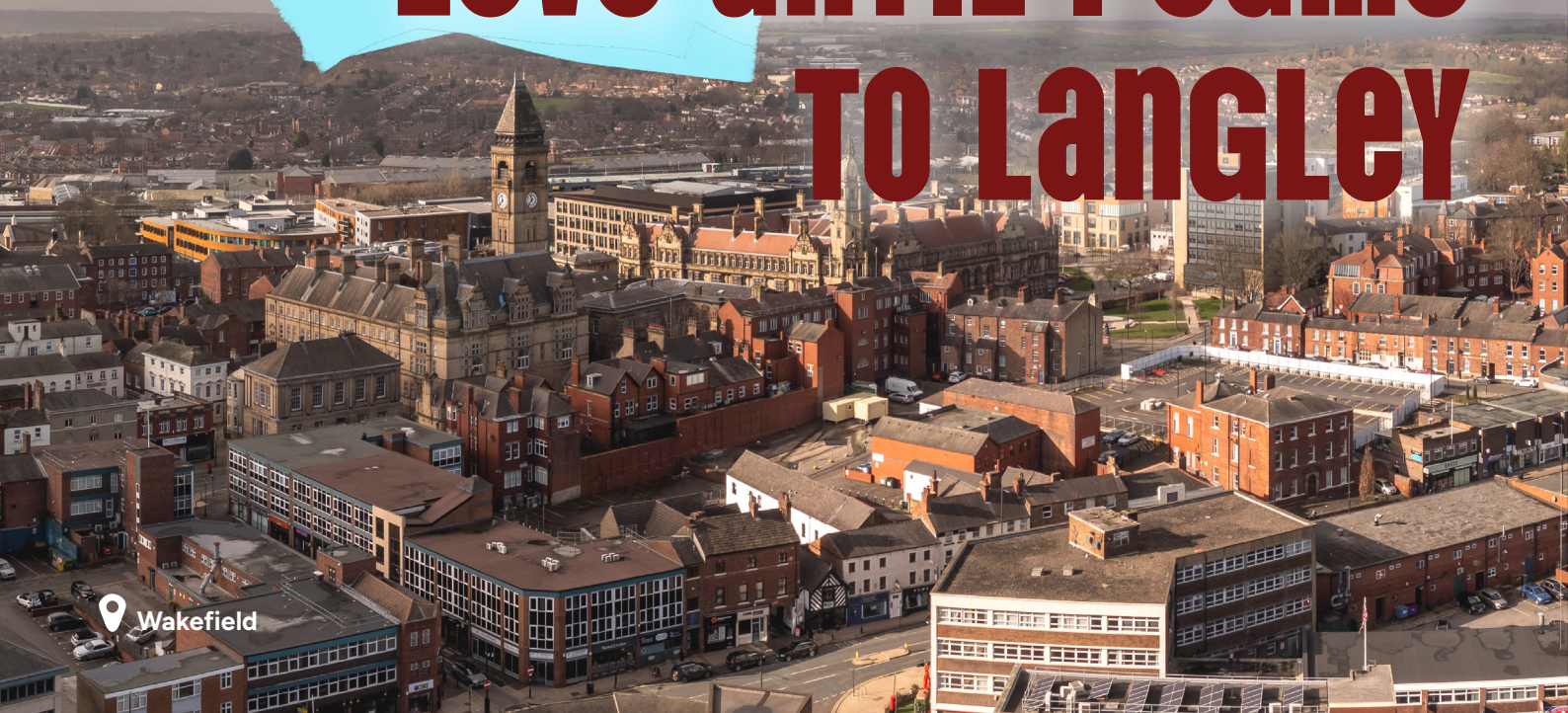
BREAKOUT

The supporter magazine for Langley Trust

SUMMER 2025



I HADN'T EXPERIENCED LOVE UNTIL I CAME TO LANGLEY



**LOOK OUT FOR THE SPEECH-MARK
SIGN THROUGHOUT THIS EDITION FOR QUOTES
FROM ASHDENE STAFF, CLIENTS & VOLUNTEERS**

*Please note, client names and faces are sometimes changed or hidden to protect the people in our care.

Welcome to our summer 2025 edition of Breakout. We're excited to share stories, news and updates with you of what God is doing in and through Langley Trust.

One of our client's recently shared that he hadn't experienced love until he came to Langley. This was particularly striking considering the older age group this client represented. Years of his life had passed without feeling loved, but sadly this is not uncommon. We believe in a God who *is* love, and who demonstrates his love abundantly through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Through our work we seek to practically show this love to our clients, and we are privileged to see the impact it has.

For this edition of Breakout we visited Ashdene, our service in Wakefield. Keep reading as we explore this theme of love - hearing from clients, staff and volunteers from Ashdene.

In this Edition

Thriving Starts with Love – CEO Update	4
Service Spotlight – Ashdene	6
Langley by Numbers	8
Love Letters – A Client Story	10
News Round-Up	12
Support Us	15
The Power of Partnership	16
Sacrificial Love – Pause for Thought	18



CEO Update

THRIVING STARTS WITH LOVE



As I write, I have recently finished filling my plant pots with annual flowers. I now begin the process of watering each plant pot almost daily and feeding weekly. My reward is being able to watch as the plants quickly grow and develop an array of beautiful flowers which make me smile each time I see them.

If I stopped watering and feeding the plants regularly they might just about survive, but they would certainly not bloom and thrive or reach their full potential.

I think back to when I was training to be a probation officer in my early 20s. As a trainee we learnt about many theories of change including the attachment theory. Attachment theory focussed on what impact the lack of love and attachment can have in an individual's life during childhood. Sadly, the lack of love and attachment can lead to many issues developing in a person's life including not being able to manage aggression and frustration, experiencing heightened levels of anxiety and being impulsive in their decision making.

WE BELIEVE EACH HUMAN IS UNIQUELY CREATED BY GOD AND WORTHY OF LOVE. THIS LOVE DOES NOT CONDONE ANY WRONG BEHAVIOUR BUT EMBRACES THEM AS A HUMAN BEING AND HELPS THEM SEE THERE IS HOPE IN THEIR FUTURE.

We see these issues and various other unwanted consequences in many of our clients' lives due to their challenging childhood experiences. At Langley we cannot change the reality of any of our clients' childhood experiences nor any issues that have arisen during their adult years. But we can provide a place where each client can embrace hope and help them to develop strategies and ways of managing and mitigating these challenges.

We believe at Langley each human is uniquely created by God and worthy of love. This love does not condone any wrong behaviours but embraces them as a human being and helps them see there is real hope in their future. I believe this is fundamentally why we are successful in working with our clients. Everyone needs to experience love and everyone needs to belong and be accepted. Going back to my annual flowers in my plant pots, people thrive when they receive love and have hope, and they start to fulfil their God given potential. My prayer is that each one of our clients will see this reality in their lives.

I am grateful to all our staff and volunteers for walking these principles out each and every day. I am thankful to our supporters for walking this journey with us and supporting us.

Tracy

Tracy Wild
Chief Executive



Service Spotlight

ASHdene

LOCATION: WAKEFIELD

We connected with Julie, who has been working at Ashdene for nearly 15 years. She became the service manager in 2021 and is currently working a temporary role in Langley's central care team.

Tell us about a bit about Ashdene?

At Ashdene we provide support for guys with convictions coming directly from prisons or hospitals. We work to give them a running chance of living independently. Supporting them to not reoffend and showing them that there is another choice for their lives other than that path that leads them back into prison.

Opening in 1980, Ashdene has been supporting people with convictions for 45 years. Located in the Cathedral City of Wakefield, in West Yorkshire, the service provides supported housing with extra care – a blend of independent living and on-site support for clients with care and support needs.

Ashdene's main house is home to 17 clients, which includes a 3-bed flat allowing for a staged step-down. They also have 4 move-on houses in the community for a further 17 clients living more independently.



**FOR ME SHOWING
LOVE IS ALL ABOUT
GIVING RESPECT. IT'S
NOT ABOUT LOOKING
AT THEIR PAST BUT
LOOKING FORWARD**

What kind of support do clients need?

Clients at Ashdene can have various needs – like mental health, care needs and addictions. A key thing is also how much the world has changed since they went to prison. Sometimes guys come out with nothing – they have no ID or any way of proving who they are. We have to help them start from scratch. You can't get a bank account, and things like booking appointments, using the internet, mobile phones etc. have all completely changed.

I remember one client was trying to sort his benefits out on an automated phone system and they just couldn't deal with him, I heard him say "This is why I'd go back to drug dealing, it's just easier". With all that in mind, we do all we can to support our clients to be able to survive and then thrive in society.

SEE PAGE 16 FOR MORE ON THE IMPACT ASHDENE'S PARTNERSHIP WITH CHAPLAINS AND LOCAL CHURCHES IS HAVING.



What kind of activities help clients progress?

Alongside the regular keyworking and practical support we do lots of activities. Some clients enjoy crafting, there's animal therapy. We do trips to places they might never have been – like a zoo or a museum. Things like this show them the sort of life they could have. It helps decrease that feeling that they might be better off back in prison. Enjoying activities helps them realise they can actually enjoy life on the outside.

What can be challenging in supporting clients?

Being the ones to have to set boundaries can be challenging at first. You might think the best way is to try and be liked by letting clients do what they want. But actually, even if they give you loads of flack, they do normally understand why decisions are made and they can see the benefits. And that leads to mutual respect which enables you to develop better working relationships with clients.

What is the significance of showing love to clients?

For me showing love is all about giving respect. It's not about looking at their past but looking forward. I remember one client who had made some mistakes. We sat down and talked about what happened and then we started to talk about what we're going to do next, and he was so surprised that we still wanted to work with him.

There are scenarios where Langley is unable to offer another chance but it doesn't mean they don't deserve it from somewhere. I do believe that everyone deserves another chance, and that shocks clients because in the past people have just washed their hands of them. But Langley is willing to keep supporting and that has a huge impact.

*Photos below & right: Animal Therapy
& Craft Sessions at Ashdene*



LANGLEY BY NUMBERS

We're proud of the impact of our work. There is always a need to increase capacity and we pray and actively seek opportunities to expand and develop to meet the demands in the criminal justice sector.

Take a look at this brief snapshot of stats showing our numbers of services, the bed spaces we have, applications we receive, and the encouraging impact we are having in clients' lives.

LANGLEY TRUST:

15

SERVICES

108

PROPERTIES

458

TOTAL BED SPACES

IN THE LAST YEAR:

2084

APPLICATIONS FROM
POTENTIAL CLIENTS

298

CLIENTS STARTED
new Tenancies WITH US



1100⁺

**CLIENTS RECEIVED OUR
SERVICES IN THE LAST YEAR**

42

**CLIENTS CURRENTLY IN
EMPLOYMENT OR VOLUNTEERING**

107

**CLIENTS SUCCESSFULLY MOVED
ON IN THE LAST YEAR**

< 1%

**CLIENTS CONVICTED OF A FURTHER
OFFENCE WHILST IN OUR CARE**



LOVE LETTERS

A CLIENT STORY

Pete* came to Langley after many years in prison. Starting in the main house he is now in a move-on property, living with more independence in the community. Sharing about being supported at Ashdene he referred to letters or warnings received over the years from staff as 'love letters', knowing that they were for his good.

"You know I've had more love letters from these telling me off. It's just a love letter really. They do want the best for you. They don't want you to make the same mistake, they're trying to point you in the right direction."

“ THE LOVE I'VE GOT FROM HERE. IT WAS UNREAL. IT'S SOMETHING THAT... WELL I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED THAT KIND OF RESPECT.

What was life like for you before coming to Langley?

My life was all over the place. I used to live for the drink. Morning, afternoon, night. Soon as I opened my eyes I was running down to the off license. First time I got into trouble I was 15, fighting at the football. There was a group of lads and I just wanted to feel part of the family but it was the wrong kind of family.

I just went from bad to worse. I ended up in prison, going from jail to jail for years. That was daunting, but I met some good people in prison, staff who seemed to nurture me.



What was it like coming out of prison and how did Langley support you?

It's proper daunting coming out when you've done a long term. Don't forget there were no mobiles when I went in. Technology has just took off. I saw this person talking to himself, waving his hands around and I thought "what planet am I on?" - but he was just on a mobile phone.

If it wasn't for Langley I'd still be going in and out of jail. I had a good member of staff here who used to do keyworking. It was simple things like taking me out to the shops, getting to know Wakefield better. They'd take me down to charity shops to buy clothes and shoes. And I am on the right track now. I know the danger signs, where before I didn't.

44 IF YOU SAW ME YEARS AGO, YOU WOULD HAVE GONE: "YOU'VE GOT NO CHANCE."



What has been the significance of being shown love?

The love I've got from here. It was unreal. It's something that, well I've never experienced that kind of respect. They do care about you. It's just unbelievable.

And then the love I got from Langley, I'm trying to give it back to another resident who will be in the same situation as me. I take him out and I get him to talk, and you can see the difference, he is coming on. Just to see somebody else transform from a chrysalis to something nice...

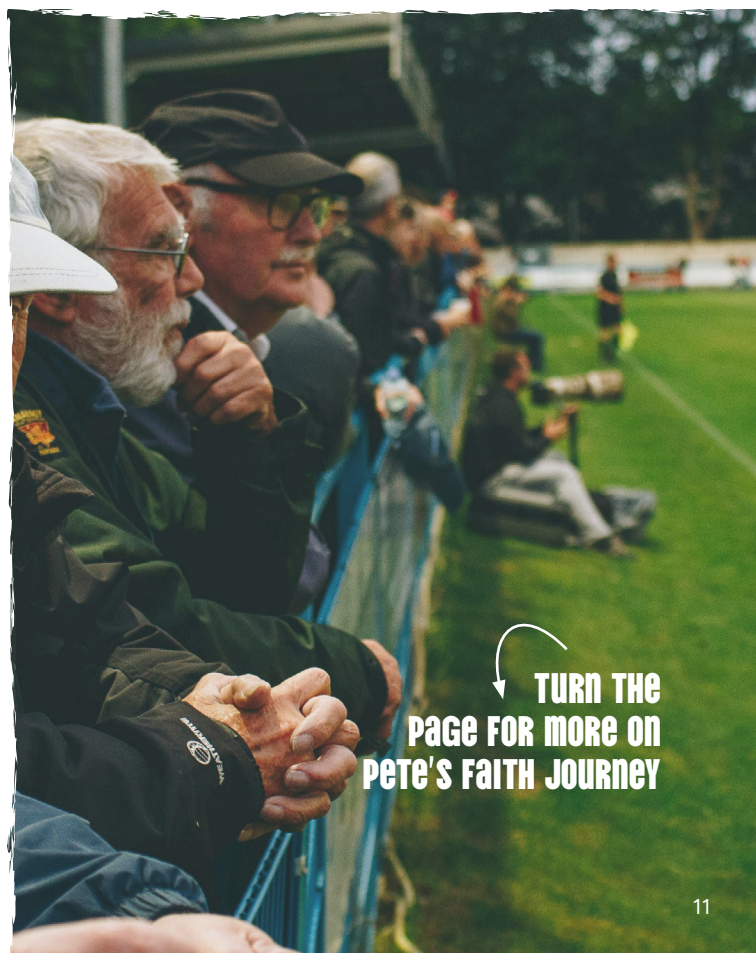
I believe in hope, you know. I hang on to that word hope. Because there's hope for everybody.

What is your life like now and what are your hopes for the future?

If you saw me years ago, you would have gone: "you've got no chance." If somebody said "you're going to stop drinking", I'd have laughed at them, but I went to a funeral recently and I met a lot of people from my past and they've seen a big change.

Where I am now it's a half-way house, there are 4 of us in there. My future hope is to get my own place and just live my life out, you know, live my life out and help other people.

I stopped going to watch professional football and I go to watch non-league. And I love it, meeting different people from all walks of life, old and young. Sharing your story and chatting and having a laugh. That was what I was missing in my life. **So that's me in a nutshell.**



TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE ON PETE'S FAITH JOURNEY

NEWS ROUND-UP

OUR FIRST CLIENT ENCOUNTER DAY

March this year saw our very first client encounter day, following the success of our staff encounter days last year. We had the privilege of welcoming **20 clients** to Hebron Church, in Rochdale, for worship, Bible teaching and prayer.

Andy Flute, former captain of the English boxing team, gave a powerful testimony and many clients identified with his life experiences and were inspired by hearing about how the Lord rescues us, because of how much he loves and delights in us.

**CLIENTS SHARED THEY
HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED
ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE**



>> Leading THROUGH Change

Langley Leadership Retreat 2025

By the time this edition of Breakout lands, around 90 Langley leaders, managers, trustees and chaplains will have been on the 2025 Langley Leadership Retreat.

Napoleon Bonapart said **"Great leaders define reality and point to hope."** At Langley we have a hope beyond all hopes – please pray we are diligent in pointing to it. We are so thankful for support we receive to be able to provide our leaders and managers the opportunity to be fed spiritually, equipped and encouraged in both their life and work.

20 STAFF Take PART in online alpha

The first few months of 2025 saw another Langley Staff & Volunteer online Alpha course. As a Christian organisation we employ people of all faiths and none. Alpha gives them a chance to find out more about the Christian faith that shapes our work and about God's love for them in a relaxed, conversational course.

Now into our 4th annual course, Alpha is a highlight of the Langley year - with previous Alpha graduates still growing in faith in their local churches and a number getting baptised. Praise God!

**"I REALISED DURING THE
ALPHA COURSE THAT I NEVER
LOST MY FAITH. GOD WAS
ALWAYS THERE AND WAS
WAITING FOR ME."**



“ HE DIED ON A CROSS WHICH IS JUST UNREAL. HE TOOK MY PLACE WHERE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN. THAT’S THE KIND OF LOVE THAT GOD SHOWED.”

During our interview at Ashdene, Pete shared his faith and what he enjoyed at the Langley client encounter day:

The guy who spoke on the day, he was like me, so we had something in common. I remember him saying he didn’t want to go to school, and at the end of my schooling I was just wild. He had been in prison and a lot of people who have never been in jail can’t relate.

The boxing fascinated me, he used to spar with Chris Eubank, so he must have been a hard nut, but then to hear how he changed his life around...

For me I think it was 1982 when Billy Graham came. I went to church and I thought there must be something in this but I didn’t pursue it.

It wasn’t until further down the line in jail I started to look more into the Bible and it changed me. Not overnight but like a carpenter chipping away, or like the story of the potter. He put me back on the stool... broke me down and built me up again.

I’m half way there now. I do believe there is one God and he must be patient. I have let him down so many times. It reminds of Barabbas. I was a Barabbas because he took my place. He died on a cross which it’s just unreal. He took my place where I should have been. That’s the kind of love that God showed. You know, I think wow. Why did you bother with me?

DAY OF PRAYER 2025

Join Us on 3rd July • 7am-7pm

At Langley, we have so much to celebrate and to thank God 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.

Join our National Day of Prayer in July as our staff, volunteers, supporters and more commit the day to pray for our work.

More Details:



**[langleytrust.org/
dayofprayer](https://langleytrust.org/dayofprayer)**

NEWS ROUND-UP

...continued

INDEPENDENT WOMAN OF THE FUTURE AWARD – FINALIST



Emma started at Ashdene as a cook in 2021 and, after taking training and an apprenticeship to increase her understanding of clients with care needs, she started working as a support worker in 2024. In her roles she has consistently demonstrated the willingness to go above and beyond for our clients. This was demonstrated by an unexpected email we received from a member of the public complementing the care and support she had witnessed Emma provide to a client on a day trip.

We are delighted to share that Emma has been shortlisted in the Independent Woman of the Future category of the Women in Housing Awards 2025. Well done Emma!

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AWARDS – BEST FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLATFORM

Langley are also proud finalists of the Employee Benefits Awards for our new Flexible Benefits Platform launched last year – seeking to provide meaningful benefits to our staff whatever their situation.

As well as providing high-quality services and care for our clients, we recognise the huge importance of our staff. We seek to care for and provide an outstanding working experience with excellent benefits – being finalist for this award is an honour.

The winners for these awards will be announced soon - keep an eye on our social channels!



Emma

Ashdene Support Worker & Women In Housing Award Finalist



What I enjoy about my role is the opportunity to make a meaningful difference – whether that's in someone's day, their development, or their future. Every day brings new challenges and chances to grow. I find real fulfilment in helping others succeed, building strong relationships, and being part of a team that genuinely cares. The sense of purpose and the positive impact we create together are what keep me motivated and proud of the work I do.

Being nominated for this award was incredibly humbling – it meant that someone saw value in what I do and took the time to recognise it. To then be shortlisted was both an honour and a reminder of how far I've come.

It's not just a personal achievement; it reflects the support, collaboration, and shared values of the people I work with every day. It's a moment of pride, but also deep gratitude.

SUPPORT US

Give financially to Langley and help people with convictions to transform their lives. We truly value all our supporters and the huge difference they make to the individuals we work with.

Give to Langley to improve our client experience

Help Langley provide the best experiences, resources and environments to see our clients flourish. Our services and their gardens are our clients' homes – they are significant to their rehabilitation and success.

Give to the work of our chaplaincy teams

Our volunteer chaplains ensure there is a Christian presence in each of our services, they provide friendship, support and the opportunity to hear about the redemptive love of Jesus. Join us in this key mission of demonstrating God's love to some of the most marginalised people in society.

GIVE NOW:

For more information or if you have any questions please get in touch with Louisa: fundraising@langleytrust.org

Ways To Give

- **Make a one-off donation:**
langleytrust.org/givenow or use the QR code below.
- **Set up a regular standing order:**
langleytrust.org/givenow or use the QR code below.
- **Leave A Legacy:** Over the years we have had the privilege of being included in the legacies of many Langley friends and supporters. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss this opportunity.



langleytrust.org/givenow



STEVE* One of our clients at Ashdene was keen to share with us about something that happened recently and the impact staff had on him.



A few weeks back I was going through a rocky patch and ended up in a downward spiral. I went into town and ended up in a really bad way. One of the staff members who wasn't working saw me and realised I wasn't well. She came and spoke to me and phoned Ashdene to get one of the support workers to come and help me get home.

On the way home he asked why I did what I did, and I explained it was coming up to an anniversary of 3 years since one of my foster carers had passed away. With the good times that I had

with him, it was too difficult to think about while I was level-headed. So I ended up taking something to try and block it out.

I'm so thankful because if it wasn't for staff and what they did to help me, then I wouldn't be here now. I wouldn't have made it back home that night and I don't think I'd be still here. I'm shocked because every other place I've been, I've never seen this type of love or compassion. In other places I've always been just shoved to one side. I'm grateful that the staff here understand people like me.

I'M SHOCKED BECAUSE EVERY OTHER PLACE I'VE BEEN, I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS TYPE OF LOVE OR COMPASSION.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

CHURCHES & CHAPLAINS

Significant to the work at Ashdene has been a long-standing relationship with, and support from, local churches in Wakefield. Rob Magee started working for Langley in 1997 and has been involved at Ashdene for over 25 years, now as a regional manager. Rob told us a little about this work with local churches:

“ For a long time Ashdene has developed partnerships with local churches and chaplains which have been so significant and helped the service to be accepted in the local community. Over the years clients have attended churches and even volunteered at foodbanks and cafes. We’ve had visits from the Bishop of Wakefield, and managers now go to the bishop’s breakfast each month. Two long-standing chaplains Dave and Kathy, who came through a partnership of over 20 years – first with St Andrew’s and then St Catherine’s – visit every week to meet clients and pray with them. They are so understanding, non-judgemental and supportive, and clients get curious about God and come in and out of prayer time.



“ The chaplains come in and we do a group prayer, and then if you like they’ll come and sit with you 1-to-1 and do prayer with you if you need.

One of my family members is going through a rough time at the moment because he’s fighting cancer. So sometimes I will talk to one of the chaplains about how I’m feeling. Once we’ve talked about it, we say a prayer for them to be safe and well.

Steve* - Ashdene Client



“ IT IS ALWAYS A PRIVILEGE TO WALK ALONGSIDE INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR JOURNEY OF LIFE AND FAITH, AND TO SEE LIVES TRANSFORMED AS THEY RECEIVE THE LOVE AND COMPASSION OF JESUS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH THOSE WHO USE THEIR GIFTS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES.

Rev Kathy Robertson - Ashdene Chaplain

Turn the page for this edition's devotion from Rev Kathy



CALLING NEW CHAPLAINS

Could you give just a few hours a week to serve on our chaplaincy team?

We are looking for more chaplains to join us and walk alongside our clients and staff. If you have a desire to see broken lives renewed and would like to put your faith into action, this could be the role for you.

We are looking to grow our volunteer chaplaincy teams across all our services, and we are specifically praying for chaplains in the areas below. *Do you know someone who could serve as a chaplain in:*

BRADFORD or BEDFORD?

GET IN TOUCH

Interested in becoming a chaplain or learning more about partnering with a local service? Please email chaplaincy@langleytrust.org or head to langleytrust.org/chaplains



Pause For Thought

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

When I think of love I am reminded of the last supper – this is where Jesus gave the disciples the command to love one another and this is where he showed us what love was as he bent down low and washed their feet.

This was not the love of roses and chocolates but the love of dirty feet that needed washing clean. As he went from person to person, he knew the good and the not so good in each of them. He didn't see the one who would betray him, or the one who would deny him, or the ones arguing about who was the greatest. No, he saw each one as an individual who he loved deeply irrespective of what was in their hearts.

“JESUS SAW EACH ONE AS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HE LOVED DEEPLY IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT WAS IN THEIR HEARTS.”

And with love comes forgiveness. Not long after this supper those who Jesus loved went on to abandon him as he suffered torture and death for them. Yet the joy of his post-resurrection appearances assures us that Jesus continued to love them despite their flaws, and that they were forgiven and commissioned to continue his work.

The work of Langley Trust demonstrates the love of Jesus as we serve those in our care. We acknowledge that they come with flaws but assure them that they are loved as they are. In the care they receive they have the opportunity to be restored, to know they are valued, to know they can be forgiven, and that there is always new hope for the future.

This is not an easy road – it can be messy just like foot washing is messy. It will require patience and perseverance but healing and wholeness comes not when people are labelled by their past but when they are seen as individuals, made in God's image and loved and cherished by the one who laid down his life for them.

Rev Kathy Robertson

Ashdene Volunteer Chaplain & Associate Priest, St Catherine's Wakefield



**BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES
HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS:
WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS
CHRIST DIED FOR US.**

ROMANS 5:8





**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

Langley Trust, 3 & 4 The Square, Manfield Avenue, Coventry, CV2 2QJ

Registered Charity No. 1146304 | Langley Trust is a registered trademark of Langley House Trust