Breakout

Supporter Magazine for Langley Trust



In The Autumn/Winter 2026 Edition

Finishing the Race: 23 Years' Service
A Crisis in our Prison Population
Partnerships that Change Lives

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

Spoken by Moses to Joshua - Deuteronomy 31:6

High Leigh Gardens - Leadership Retreat



In This Edition

Welcome	3
A Crisis in our Prison Population	4-5
Partnerships that Change Lives	6-7
Finishing the Race: Melinda	8-9
News Round-Up	10-11
Pause For Thought	12-13
Support & Partner	14-15

Welcome to Breakout autumn / winter 2026

There is something special about reaching the end of a chapter. It is a time to reflect on what has been achieved, celebrate God's faithfulness, and look forward to what comes next.

This edition of Breakout reflects on just that. We look back with gratitude for the people, partnerships and stories that have shaped Langley's work, whilst looking ahead with hope to what God has in store.

Throughout these pages, you'll meet people who have faithfully invested in Langley's mission for many years. We hear from Melinda as she reflects on over two decades with us and the many lives she has seen transformed, and from Pen our Head of Chaplaincy, who offers her final devotion before handing on the baton. We also explore challenges facing the criminal justice system and celebrate churches putting their faith into action through partnering with us.

The words of Deuteronomy (on page 2) were spoken by Moses to Joshua at a time of transition, as one leader prepared to hand over to another. While circumstances may change and people may move on, God's faithfulness remains constant. It is a reminder that we can step into the future with confidence, knowing that He continues to guide and sustain His people.

Thank you for being part of the Langley family. Through your prayers, generosity, volunteering and encouragement, you help make stories of hope, restoration and second chances possible every day.

Enjoy this final edition of Breakout for 2026!

Louisa Abdulazeez
Partner Relations Lead



Hot Topic

A CRISIS IN OUR PRISON POPULATION: WHY?

Tracy Wild – CEO

I cannot remember a time when the justice sector has attracted so much public attention. Over the past year, much of this interest has been driven by the Government's struggle to manage a growing prison population within the finite capacity of the prison estate. The immediate pressure on prison places is serious, but it also raises a more fundamental question: who should be sent to prison, and when could a community sentence achieve better outcomes?

Prison Watch reported that, in September 2026, the prison population stood at **87,245** and was predicted to grow to **99,600 by 2028**. In 2025, **21,600 people in prison, around 25% of the total population, were held in overcrowded accommodation.** These figures underline the scale of the challenge facing the prison estate.

> "AT LANGLEY TRUST, WE SEE THE CONSEQUENCES FIRST-HAND

Despite this, a wider question remains: are we relying on prison too often when other options may be more effective? England and Wales have one of the highest imprisonment rates in Western Europe, and evidence suggests that higher imprisonment rates do not necessarily correspond with lower levels of crime. This raises important questions about how custody is used and when community-based alternatives may achieve better outcomes.

Before joining Langley Trust, I worked for the Probation Service as a Senior Probation Officer. From personal experience, I understand the value of community sentences, while recognising that they are not suitable for every offence. However, I believe that, as a country, we need to be honest about the direction sentencing policy has taken, despite the measures introduced through the Sentencing Act 2026.

In my view, the greatest opportunity for change lies at the lower end of the sentencing spectrum. In

the year to June 2025, **32% of people sentenced to immediate custody received a prison sentence of six months or less**. Evidence suggests that short prison sentences are often less effective than community sentences at reducing reoffending, while also disrupting employment, support networks and accommodation. For this reason, it is encouraging that the Sentencing Act 2026 introduces a presumption that custodial sentences of 12 months or less will be suspended. The key test will be whether this leads to meaningful change in practice.

Another factor is the significant decline in Pre-Sentence Reports (PSRs), which help courts understand not only the offence but also the wider circumstances of the individual before them. Their use has fallen dramatically, from **94,000 reports in 2010 to just 5,586 in 2024**. Courts are **10 times more likely** to impose a community sentence when a PSR is available, suggesting that their decline has contributed to the reduction in community sentences.

At the other end of the spectrum, sentences for more serious offences have become considerably longer. The Prison Reform Trust reports that **more than three times as many people received sentences of 10 years or more in 2024 than in 2010**, while the average minimum term for life sentences has also increased significantly over the past two decades. The independent sentencing review identified longer prison sentences as a major driver of prison population growth.

The causes of the rising prison population are complex. At Langley Trust, we see the consequences first-hand through the growing demand for accommodation and support among people leaving prison. It is difficult to watch the prison system operate under such intense pressure when credible alternatives exist. My hope is that long-term reform will reserve prison for those whose offences and risks genuinely require it, while ensuring that properly resourced community sentences are available to reduce reoffending, support rehabilitation and create opportunities for lasting change. Our Christian faith reminds us that lasting change is possible, which is why effective rehabilitation must remain at the heart of any long-term solution.

Source: Prison Reform Trust, Bromley Briefings Prison Factfile, Winter 2026; National Audit Office; Independent Sentencing Review 2026.



OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH REMINDS US THAT LASTING CHANGE IS POSSIBLE, WHICH IS WHY EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION MUST REMAIN AT THE HEART OF ANY LONG-TERM SOLUTION

Partnerships that change lives

A local church volunteers at Murray Lodge

When members of CLM Church in Coventry arrived at Murray Lodge as part of their annual **Go! Outreach Initiative**, they came ready to lend a hand in the garden. By the end of the day, they had done far more than tidy pathways and tackle overgrown spaces.

As they worked, church members took time to chat with the clients, share their experience of church life and build new relationships. According to Emmanuel Murray Lodge's Deputy Manager, it was **"an amazing display of God's love and service...**

> "...the team from CLM was very friendly, they engaged with the lads where they could, spoke to them about the church and some of them even seemed to want to visit.



FOR LANGLEY, THIS IS WHAT CHURCH PARTNERSHIP IS ALL ABOUT.

Our vision is to work together with churches – nationally and locally – to help people flourish. The visit from CLM shows how support and relationship building go hand-in-hand. While the transformed garden will be enjoyed for years to come, the conversations, encouragement and kindness shown may have an even greater impact.

Partnerships like this remind us that the church has a unique role to play in helping people rebuild their lives. **By working together, we can create places where hope grows, relationships flourish, and people are given the opportunity to discover a brighter future.**

Become a Partner Church

At Langley, we believe all people are made in God's image, loved by Him regardless, called into community, offered redemption by His grace, and promised His glory

Why Partner with Langley?

Partnering with Langley is an opportunity to put faith into action and make a meaningful difference in the lives of people rebuilding their lives after homelessness, prison, addiction and other challenges. Together, we can demonstrate the hope of the gospel in practical ways, strengthen communities, and create opportunities for people to experience belonging, dignity and a fresh start.

Three Ways to Partner with Us



1. SUPPORT

Pray for our clients, staff and services. Support our work financially and help share Langley's story within your church and community



2. SERVE

Volunteer your time, skills or resources, visit a local service, or bring a team to support practical projects that make a lasting difference.



3. WELCOME

Create spaces where people feel accepted, valued and connected by welcoming them into church life, activities and relationships that foster hope and belonging.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PARTNER CHURCH?

Scan the QR code to find out more about partnering with Langley Trust.

langleytrust.org/partnerchurch

Finishing the Race

Reflecting on 23 Years at Langley

After 23 years with Langley Trust, Melinda - Service Manager at Kadesh looks back on the people, moments and lessons that have shaped her journey

What first brought you to Langley Trust?

Before joining Langley, I worked in a church-run day centre for people experiencing homelessness. Everyday I'd watch people leave at 4pm and wondered where they were going and what would happen to them. I remembered praying, "There has to be more".

At the time I was referring people to Langley and was invited to visit one of the services. I fell in love with the ethos straight away. It wasn't just about giving someone somewhere to stay; it was about walking alongside them and helping them find their path. When a vacancy came up, I jumped at the chance.

> "Today he has his own accommodation but still comes back to work in the garden. He helped transform Kadesh, but Langley helped transform him. For me that's what Langley is all about.



What have you learned from the people you've supported over the years?

That people are people. Everybody wants to be accepted, respected, loved and cared for. People need to feel valued and listened to, whether they are staff or clients.

I've learned never to judge someone by what's written on paper. Every person has a story, and often you only see their strengths when you take the time to listen.

Can you share a client story that captures what Langley is all about?

One client arrived at Kadesh struggling and quite unhappy. Over time, he began transforming our neglected garden, he built furniture, grew vegetables and even made some personalised Christmas gift boxes for other clients.

Today he has his own accommodation but still comes back to help in the garden. He helped transform Kadesh, but Langley helped transform him. For me, that's what Langley is all about.



Melinda Grahn
Service Manager at Kadesh (2003-2026)

> "Langley has been such a big part of my life, and I have loved my time here. My walk with God has deepened because of it.

When you look at Langley today, what are you most proud of?

I'm proud that despite how much we've grown, we've stayed true to our Christian values. When I first started, we counted every penny and there was a real poverty mindset. Today, Langley is recognised as a leading organisation in the sector, but our mission remains the same: helping people rebuild their lives.

As you prepare for retirement, what are you hopes for Langley's future?

My prayer is that Langley continues to thrive while keeping Jesus at the centre of everything it does.

Langley has been such a big part of my life, and I have loved my time here. My walk with God has deepened because of it. I've learned to rely on Him, to listen for His guidance to trust that He leads the way. My hope is that Langley never loses sight of that.

News Round-up

Leadership Retreat 2026

Earlier this autumn, Langley leaders came together for our annual Leadership Retreat, taking time away from the business of everyday work to pause, reflect and reconnect with God and one another.

This year's theme, **Re: Re**treat, **Re**concile, **Re**store, **Re**new was explored by a fantastic group of speakers. Rev Jeremy Crossley helped us think about the importance of retreating and creating space to hear God's voice. Canon Sarah Snyder led sessions on reconciliation and restoration, while Muyiwa Olarewaju rounded off the retreat with a powerful focus on renewal and stepping forward with purpose.

The retreat was a timely reminder of the importance Langley places on investing in its leaders spiritually as well as professionally, creating space to be refreshed, challenged and renewed for the work ahead.



Charity Times Awards 2026

A proud moment for Langley Trust

Langley Trust was delighted to be shortlisted for Charity of the Year (large charity category) at the Charity Times Awards 2026.

To be recognised alongside some of the UK's leading charities was a tremendous honour and a testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, churches, partners and supporters. Congratulations to Enable, who took home the award this year.

Christmas Appeal 2026

The Gift They Didn't Expect

Seen: A room. A key. A fresh start.

Unseen: Hope. Purpose. Belonging.

The things we can see are often where the story begins. This Christmas, we'll be sharing stories of transformation that reveal the deeper impact of Langley's work and the life-changing difference made possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Look out for our Christmas Appeal and discover how your support continues to change lives from the inside out.

langleytrust.org/appeal

SheMatters 2026: Women's Justice Conference

#SheMatters is a conference organised by Imago Dei to connect organisations and individuals working on the frontlines with women in the Criminal Justice System. This year, Louisa – our Partner Relations Lead - attended alongside colleagues from Mariposa House, Langley's only all-female service, and Kadesh, which supports men and women in the community in Kent. Louisa writes:

The day brought together organisations including C2C Social Action, Unlock and Grace House, alongside breakout sessions with charities such as Fine Cell Work. It was encouraging to hear from people working across the sector, sharing practical ways to support those affected by the criminal justice system.

While most people in prison are men, #SheMatters shone a spotlight on the unique challenges faced by women. It was inspiring to learn more about the organisations walking alongside women who have been in prison, are at risk of offending, or are rebuilding their lives in the community, helping them move forward with dignity, confidence and hope.

One message from the day particularly resonated:

A conviction tells us where someone has been, not where they are going

Prisons Week 2026

Earlier this October, churches and charities across the UK came together for Prisons Week, an annual opportunity to pray for everyone affected by the criminal justice system, including people in prison, their families, victims of crime, and those working across prisons, probation and chaplaincy. This year's theme, "All Are Invited", drew inspiration from Matthew 22:1-14 and served as a reminder that God's invitation is open to everyone.

Alongside many other churches and charities, Langley was pleased to support this year's Prisons Week, continuing a shared commitment to hope, restoration and second chances.

Prisons Week is an annual event – why not plant the seeds in your church for hosting a prayer meeting next year! **langleytrust.org/prisonsweek**



Pause For Thought

Passing on the Baton

**Listen, my people, to my teaching,
and pay attention to what I say.
I am going to use wise sayings
and explain mysteries from the past,
things we have heard and known,
things that our ancestors told us.
We will not keep them from our children;
we will tell the next generation
about the Lord's power and his great deeds
and the wonderful things he has done**

Psalm 78: 1-4



I don't know whether you recall the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The U.S. team were strong contenders for the Men's 4 x 100m relay and yet, despite having world-class runners, and leading most of their qualifying heat, they never made it to the final, due to the baton being dropped between Darvis Patton and Tyson Gay. The image of Tyson Gay looking back as the baton tumbles to the ground is one of crushing disappointment that we can all relate to.

In Hebrews 12, we are told to run with perseverance the race marked out for us. But what we might forget is that, as well as running our own personal race, we are also taking part in a relay. As we each run our own race of faith, we are called to pass on the baton to the next generation.

As I come to the end of my time with Langley and look back over the last 5 years, there is so much to praise God for. We have shared the Gospel with clients whose lives have been transformed. We have journeyed with staff who've been through our online Alpha courses as they have gone on to be baptised and rooted in their local church. We've worshipped the Lord together at retreats and Encounter Days, managers' meetings and client gatherings.

While I am sad to be leaving Langley, I am encouraged that the baton will not be dropped. Please join me in prayer that the ministry will continue through the dedication and faith of the people of Langley, so that future generations of Langley clients, staff and volunteers will each be told of the 'Lord's power and his great deeds and the wonderful things he has done' **Psalm 78:4.**

Rev Pen Maginn
Head of Chaplaincy
Aug 2021 - Oct 2026



> "As we each run our own race of faith, we are called to pass on the baton to the next generation.

SUPPORT US

Give to Langley and help people with convictions to transform their lives. We truly value all our supporters and the huge difference you 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

Support our chaplaincy work as they ensure a Christian presence in each of our services – providing friendship, support and the opportunity to hear about the redemptive love of Jesus.

Please Note: We have now officially changed our legal name from Langley House Trust to Langley Trust. All cheques can now be made payable to Langley Trust. This will also be reflected on the name associated with our bank account.

GIVE NOW

langleytrust.org/givenow

For more information or if you have any questions please get in touch with Louisa.

Ways To Give

- **Make a one-off donation:**
  langleytrust.org/givenow or use the QR code above.
- **Set up a regular standing order:**
  langleytrust.org/givenow or use the QR code above.
- **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.



Get in touch

We love hearing from our supporters. Please get in touch if you want to learn more about our work, how you can volunteer or have your church partner with us, or if you want to support a specific project – such as our Lead Chaplains.

Email: **louisa.abdulazeez@langleytrust.org**

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email me!



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

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