



BREAKOUT

The supporter magazine for Langley Trust

SUMMER 2024





LANGLEY DAY OF PRAYER

4th July 2024

Please join us for the annual **Langley Day of Prayer** on Thursday 4th July, 7am to 7pm - to find out more and to sign up, go to langleytrust.org/day-of-prayer-2024

Scan me to sign up



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Design & Photography: Dave at GeorgeCreative.uk

*Names and faces may have been changed throughout this publication in order to protect those under our care

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FOR THE BETTER



WELCOME

Welcome to this edition of Breakout, I hope you are enjoying the summer. I'm Chris Metcalfe the Director of Operations at Langley Trust, which involves overseeing operational performance at our services – having oversight for property, property compliance and performance in the area of supported housing referrals.

I am well known for my terrible dad jokes which I regularly share with my executive colleagues, who will confirm they are truly terrible. I have been with Langley for 23 years in August having started as a relief worker at Box Tree Cottage in Bradford. Since then, I have held various roles including Area Manager for 14 years before becoming the Director of Operations in July 2020. It is my privilege to serve the Trust and play some part, as all our wonderful staff do, in changing people's lives for the better, for a missional Christian charity that truly has God at its heart.

In this edition we have a spotlight on Kadesh which is our newly named supported housing service in Kent. The name is a biblical reference to the place where God's people stopped before crossing the river Jordan to the promised land – keep reading to find out more! The service is managed from the former Shrubbery care home site in Rochester (which you may remember

from the last edition has now moved house) and also has a number of properties in the community. This marks an exciting new beginning for the Kadesh service which will be invaluable to providing support and accommodation for men and women with convictions in the Medway area.

I wanted to offer a sincere thank you for your loyal support which means so much to us at Langley. We need you as supporters and allies to help promote and deliver our mission of giving some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people a second, third or in some cases numerous chances, to help get their lives back on track.

Thank you and we hope you enjoy this summer edition.

Chris Metcalfe
Director of Operations

CEO UPDATE

When I think of the name 'Kadesh' I think of waiting, waiting to enter the promised land. I don't know about you but waiting has formed a large portion of my experience to date (whether the waiting relates to my working or personal life).

In Langley we have many development opportunities that we are currently waiting to see come to fruition. We of course have regular meetings where we 'track progress' which is a business term for waiting!

In the waiting season I find we need to trust more, to hold on to the vision of the outcome we are waiting for in an even more meaningful way. I also need to encourage myself to keep believing for the desired outcome and to encourage others around me to do the same. It is absolutely true that I learn more in the waiting, I learn about myself and what causes me to doubt or lose hope, I learn about my fears and what drives me. Through that greater understanding I can hopefully enter periods of waiting with more understanding and resilience.

Our clients have often experienced long periods of waiting, having experienced prison sentences during which their lives and aspirations were put on hold, ultimately losing hope of a better future. At Langley we look to reignite that hope in their hearts, to help them see a brighter future.

If you are in a period of waiting, I want to encourage you to keep going. Just like someone rowing a boat across a large lake, the distance to the other side is not known but the other side is still there (that is a fact), so keep going. I pray that you will be given all you need for the journey of waiting and that you would be blessed not only in seeing the final outcome but in the growth you experience in that journey.

Blessings,

Tracy

Tracy Wild
CEO



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IN THE WAITING SEASON I FIND WE NEED TO TRUST MORE, TO HOLD ON TO THE VISION OF THE OUTCOME WE ARE WAITING FOR IN AN EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL WAY.



WE'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT PROVIDING INDIVIDUALS WITH ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT NOT ONLY DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, BUT ALSO IMPROVE THEIR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING.

KADESH

A place of rest & sanctuary

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT WE AIM TO DO AT KADESH: OFFER A PLACE OF REST AND RESTORATION TO OUR CLIENTS WHO HAVE OFTEN HAD TRAUMATIC LIVES AND FACED SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTIES COMING OUT OF CUSTODY.

Kadesh is one of our supported housing services, providing homes, support and stable environments to help people with convictions to transform their lives. Recently renamed, Kadesh has undergone some exciting developments this year as it has taken on the old Shrubbery care home site in Rochester. This has increased the service's capacity as well as given new opportunities to provide different levels of support, accommodation and activities for our clients.

Melinda Grahn, who was previously at the Shrubbery, is the new Housing Services Manager at Kadesh. We'll let her introduce you to this service in her own words...

Kadesh is made up of a large hostel for men, alongside a number of houses in the community for both men and women. We are one of the few Langley services that can support women with convictions – one of whom you'll hear from in a few pages time!

Our hostel sleeps 14 men, each with their own bedroom. Currently every bed is filled which is fantastic as it means those needing our help are accessing it. Clients who live in the community are more capable of independent living and in our hostel we encourage elements of independent living (e.g. self-catering and self-medicating). However, many of our clients benefit from extra support to build their life skills, such as managing budgets, basic cooking skills and how to maintain a tenancy, etc.

We're passionate about providing individuals with activities and opportunities that not only develop their skills, but also improve their mental and physical well-being. We have a karaoke machine, and frequently hear singing filtering through

the building. We host a 'Give It A Go' club every Thursday and put on activities like quizzes, bingo, guest speakers, etc. Our chaplain often attends these sessions so it's a great opportunity for our clients to connect with her. A few of our clients are keen gardeners and have planted lots of vegetables which they are very proud of – we might even have a farmers' market one day, turn over to see more!

The service is staffed 24/7 by a fantastic and experienced team, who are invaluable to supporting individuals with convictions to transform their lives.

As mentioned, previously known as the 'Kent Resettlement' service, we've recently renamed to 'Kadesh' which refers to the place where God's people stopped before crossing the River Jordan into the promise land. It means 'holy place, sacred' and signifies a sanctuary and a place to rest. This is exactly what we aim to do here: offer a place of rest and restoration to our clients who have often had traumatic lives and faced significant difficulties coming out of custody.

GROWING IN THE GARDEN



At Langley we seek to provide meaningful activities and environments where clients will grow and flourish. Until very recently the large gardens at Kadesh were completely overgrown and unusable.

One day Derek* decided he wanted to tackle the garden which has since lead to amazing growth – both in the garden and in himself.

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I have been at Kadesh for 3 months but so much has changed – me and the garden. I didn't know where to start but once I got going it was a reason to get up and dressed.

My mental and physical health has improved. I feel proud of what I have done. I walk around every day and love seeing the changes as things start to grow.

I have also grown. I was in a horrendous situation and moving to the hostel has given me a reason for living. I love being in the garden, come rain or shine and I like the feeling of having done a good day's work. I'm sleeping better, feel better and probation are so pleased with my progress.



*Names have been changed to protect those in our care



JENNY'S STORY

Kadesh is one of the few services within Langley who can offer support to both males and females with convictions. We caught up with Jenny* one of our clients who has kindly shared with us some of her experiences of life and moving to Kadesh.

How would you describe what your life was like before you came to Kadesh?

Rubbish! My mood was low and it was unfulfilling. My future looked bleak.

How did it feel when you first arrived here?

Scary! Though I felt welcomed by the staff.

How has the service and the people here impacted your life?

Kadesh has helped me with so much. It has helped me sort out practical issues, but more it has helped my self-esteem and self-confidence. I now have friends, too.

What are you most thankful for in your time here?

Getting help to live my life fully. I've been given a second chance, and I feel accepted and valued.

What are your hopes for the future?

I have hopes to have contact with my daughter, to go to work, and to move on and live my best life!

The new name 'Kadesh' means a place of rest or safety. How have you experienced rest or safety in your time here?

I can come to the staff for help with anything. They always listen, and it is a safe environment for me. I have had time to properly address all my needs before moving on to the next step in my life. Thank you for all the help and support.

KADESH

A place of rest & sanctuary

“ I can come to the staff for help with anything. They always listen, and it is a safe environment for me. ”

THE SILAS INITIATIVE

Dear supporter, thank you so much for all that you do to support our work across Langley Trust. You are really making a difference, with your prayers and through your financial support. You are truly appreciated, and I am establishing a pattern this summer of giving special thanks for all our supporters on the second Thursday of each month at our Thursday ten@10 prayers.

I do however want to share with you this summer's new Silas Initiative. I know many of you support us specifically because of our Christian identity and missional aspirations. We are a Trust upheld by prayer and inspired by Jesus, our number one value is to be Christ-like in all we do.

Many of us are familiar with the remarkable life and writings of Saint Paul and the impact he had on the early church and countless Christians. However we often lose sight of his companion Silas who travelled with him on a number of his missionary journeys and indeed

ANY OF US WHO HAVE UNDERTAKEN SERVICE AND MISSION IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES KNOW HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO HAVE FAITHFUL COMPANIONS ALONGSIDE US CHEERING US ON.

was arrested with him in Philippi – in 1 Peter, Silas is called 'a faithful brother.' Any of us who have undertaken service and mission in our Christian lives know how important it is to have faithful companions alongside us cheering us on, that is exactly what Silas was to Paul and its why we'd love you to sign up to our Silas Initiative.

We have a wonderful team of chaplains ministering across all our Langley services – they are carefully recruited and trained volunteers, and they do amazing work amongst our clients and give huge support to our staff. They befriend our clients, they share the good news of Jesus when invited and they run Alpha courses and offer bible study where it is sought.

We have plans to increase our chaplaincy impact, we want to run an Alpha course in all our services every year and are planning Encounter Days for both staff and clients not yet ready to do Alpha.

WE WANT TO TELL STORIES OF FOLK RIGHT ACROSS LANGLEY COMING TO FAITH AND FINDING THE RENEWED LIFE GOD WANTS FOR THEM, PLEASE BE A SILAS TO OUR CHAPLAINCY TEAM

If you could commit to our Silas Initiative this summer, you will be partnering with our chaplaincy team to make a huge difference in the lives of those we work with.

It is so easy to do... we'd love you to review your regular giving to Langley and to prayerfully consider the options below.

£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

If you already give regularly why not consider a one off Silas gift this summer.

£60

would cover a client to attend an Encounter Day

£132

covers an hour a month of chaplaincy ministry for the year

£300

to cover the costs of an Alpha course

On Pentecost Sunday this year I baptised a young man who came to faith in prison recently through the ministry of the prison chaplain. We want to tell stories of folk right across Langley coming to faith and finding the renewed life God wants for them, please be a Silas to our chaplaincy team, and do get in touch if you know someone who would make a great Langley chaplain!

Yours,



Rev Andy Rider
Director of Chaplaincy Services

EVERYONE DESERVES ANOTHER CHANCE

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

GET INVOLVED

WORKING FOR LANGLEY

As an employer who is firmly rooted in our Christian values and history, Langley offers so much more than just a job. It offers the opportunity to serve Christ in our every day. Colossians 3 tells us that whatever we do, we should work at it with all our heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters. This is what working for Langley offers.

It is a privilege to bring together your professional skills, talents and giftings with serving God and serving others so openly at work.

Are you a Christian with a heart for helping people to make meaningful changes in their lives or do you know someone who is looking for the next stage in their career?

Whatever your skills, background or experience, we have roles to suit you. Whether you like to work in an office or directly with our clients at a service, we have opportunities from support workers and managers to administrators and directors.

Visit: langleytrust.org/careers or scan the QR code on the opposite page.

MATTHEW 11:28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest



"A lot transpired in my work life before I joined Langley. I have found rest working with the great minds in Langley. Employees across the trust are knowledgeable and genuinely believe everyone deserves another chance. I found the peace of God through blending my faith and career, an opportunity to flourish in these two key areas." **Ade**

**WHATEVER YOUR SKILLS,
BACKGROUND OR EXPERIENCE,
WE HAVE ROLES TO SUIT YOU.**

LANGLEYTRUST.ORG/CAREERS

Find out more



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Dreams require wide open spaces.

I recently spotted a picture on Pinterest – a quote beautifully framed by an open gate leading onto a wide beach with the ocean beyond. The quote read “Dreams require wide open spaces.” I think it refers to a line in a Dixie Chicks song, but I know I flourish in wide open spaces, walking my dog in the park is often where I have good ideas.

A year ago we learnt that the word ‘Langley’ probably originates from the words ‘long’ and ‘lea’ describing a wide-open space, often a glade in a woodland. A place of perspective and fresh air, a place of new beginnings. In Psalm 18 the psalmist speaks of God having brought them into just such a space accompanied by a deep sense of rescue and divine delight.

This is exactly what we want our clients to experience when they come to Langley, a new perspective, a sense of fresh air, a place of new beginnings. We find the same sentiment in Psalm 31.8 and in Psalm 118.5.

In Romans 5 the message translation says:

“We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand, out in the wide-open spaces of God’s grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.”

My prayer for Kadesh – meaning a holy space, a place of rest, a sanctuary – is that it would epitomise the Langley we want to be. A place where clients find themselves standing where they always hoped they might stand, out in the wide-open spaces of God’s grace and glory, standing tall and shouting his praise. This is my prayer for each of us too.

Yours,



Rev Andy Rider
Director of Chaplaincy Services

**HE BROUGHT ME OUT INTO A SPACIOUS PLACE;
HE RESCUED ME BECAUSE HE DELIGHTED IN ME.**

PSALM 18:19



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**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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