

## A new venture

After much discussion it was decided to have the internet installed in the Chapel with the aim of being able to broadcast services live. Just before Christmas the cheerful and efficient team of **George** and **Jamie** arrived to connect us to the fast FTTP (Fibre to the Property) Truespeed system. As we go to press we are having a few problems with the new camera and audio link but we started the New Year by making both the morning and evening services available to those not able to come in person.



January 2021

Number 152

### Life of Jesus Bible quiz

1. Who was the old man who took the young Child Jesus in his arms in the Temple? (*Luke Chapter 2.*)
2. Where did Jesus live when He was young? (*Luke 4.*)
3. How old was Jesus when he stayed behind in Jerusalem to talk to the teachers in the temple? (*Luke 2.*)
4. About how old was Jesus when He began His public ministry? (*Luke 3.*)
5. What was Jesus' first miracle? (*John Chapter 2.*)
6. Who were the first two disciples of Jesus? (*Matthew 4.*)
7. In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus told His disciples two things they should seek first - what were they? (*Matthew 6.*)
8. What was Jesus doing when the boat was caught in a storm? (*Mark 4.*)

### Verse for the New Year

**Teach me Thy way, O LORD; I will walk in Thy truth:**

**Psalm 86:11**

## 175th Anniversary year

Yes, that's right — Langford Chapel was opened on the 16th September 1846! Until last year, as far as we are aware, there has been a continuous record of services and other events, including those benefiting the wider community. The two Coronavirus lockdowns forced temporary building closure but thanks to some newer technology we were able to provide online worship and Bible studies even then. These benefited some beyond our usual congregation and upon the first and second reopenings we were also able to provide public worship for some whose churches were still closed. We are praying that 2021 will bring happier days and, if it's in the Lord's will, hope to bring some extra events — especially an Anniversary celebration service in September, as well as the Mission with Barry King which had to be postponed last year.

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## From the Pastor's study

This first Langford Link of 2021 is rather late in reaching you, due to a very busy time around Christmas and then our Editor being a bit under the weather for a week or so. This caused me to think about how we can all feel pressurised and inclined to get stressed –sometimes because of self-imposed timetables. Christians often feel particularly bad about letting anyone down and expectations in a fast-paced society are often high. When we read the writings of earlier years it seems that life moved at a slower pace and yet they produced reams of material that we still benefit from today. I'm personally amazed at people like Matthew Henry, whose Bible commentary was compiled without the modern technology we take for granted. Not to mention incredible feats of patience needed for the older concordances and lexicons. Then there were people like Charles Haddon Spurgeon who while being a busy minister of a very large church managed to put out an amazing array of books and articles. How did they do it? Well, one answer may be that there were less distractions and competing activities. It is strange how the more "aids" we get to make life easier, the more they seem to demand our time. Another reason may have been that they devoted themselves just to one or two things they were passionate about. After a lot of musing I didn't really feel I had any real answers and will probably still be saying, "Where did the time go?" at the end of 2021! Yet the challenge remains for me and for any who want to please the Lord to make the best use of our time.

### ***Prayer requests***

Please continue to pray for our Pastor's brother, **CJB**, who is very unwell as we go to press.

The Bible tells us to pray for those in **authority** and we should especially want to do that just now.

Ask God to help those **caring** for people who are ill, whether with Coronavirus or other problems.

Thank the Lord for those who **have helped** the work at Langford to continue through the past difficult year.

## Top Tweets

**Langford Evangelical Church** @Langford\_Chapel

Thanks to Sylvia in our Bible study for this reminder ... In our weakness, **#Jesus** is our strength.

Thanks to Glenys at our Bible study for sharing this ...  
<https://www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today/64503>

## A different Christmas

**Usually** we would be reporting in January the details of our Carol Service and seasonal activities but due to the pandemic we had to scale things down. We did however have a special service of Carols and Readings, despite social distancing limiting how many could attend. We were also able to hold a Christmas Morning Service when we enjoyed a solo rendering of the Wexford Carol by **George Derry**. One thing that has been off the list since March has been our regular *Aroma* coffee mornings and we missed seeing our friends there, particularly around such a time of joyful celebration of the love of God in sending Jesus.

## 100 years ago

As this is the 175th Anniversary year, we thought an occasional look back was in order, so at the start of 2021 we recall that it was in 1921 that electric lighting was installed in Langford Chapel. This must have been a big step forward from the oil lamps. Incidentally this was happening not long after the end of another pandemic, the "Spanish Flu" of 1918-20. We don't know what the congregation would have thought about broadcasting services with electricity!

## For your diary

**This month** the usual pattern of morning and evening services at 11 and 6.30 on Sundays resumes, still with Covid-secure procedures in place. With some of our usual people not able to attend we do have some spaces

available for visitors. For the time being, the Tuesday night Bible studies are still via Zoom. We are pleased to be able to welcome David Herring again on Sunday **17th** to preach at our evening service.