

This Year's Programme - 2015

Welcome to Series Six of the Langley Lectures.

They have been conceived as an opportunity for people to come together to learn more about our locality and our world.

We aim to offer a curriculum that includes, amongst other things: music, science, politics, health, faith, and the natural world. We ask our speakers to root some of what they say in our locality – but also to share the bigger picture and speculate on the future.

The Langley Lectures

The Langley Lectures are part of the work of Langley Methodist Church – serving the community

Location

All of the Langley Lectures are held at the Langley Methodist Chapel, Main Road, Langley SK11 0BU.

The car park is very small but there is on-street parking available. Please park in a courteous way that is mindful of our neighbours.

Basic Format

In general, each lecture follows a similar format: a short introduction to the speaker, the presentation of no more than 45 minutes, a time for questions and a vote of thanks followed by refreshments and conversation.

Who they are for

The Langley Lectures are open to all – whether you live in Langley or not. They are aimed at adults of all ages who have enquiring minds and are interested in the world around them.

Cost

We ask for a donation of £2.50 per person for each lecture. Once the speaker's expenses have been met then all proceeds go to the three charities supported by the Chapel.

About the charities we support

Each year we give £500 to each of the following three charities – this comes from your donations for the Langley Lecture series with any shortfall being made up from Chapel Funds and other fundraising efforts.

East Cheshire Hospice cares for adults suffering from life-limiting illnesses from which there is no cure.

The Rossendale Trust supports people with learning and physical disabilities to lead the very best lives they can.

Just Drop In offers help and advice to vulnerable young people.

The Langley Lectures

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7 January
21 January

4 February
25 February

4 March
18 March

Wednesdays 7.45pm
Langley Chapel
Open to all

Winter 2015
Series Six

Wednesday 7 January 2015 at 7.45pm
Lost Churches
Matthew Hyde

Matthew Hyde lives in Macclesfield and has written extensively on the architecture and history of the region. He is the joint author of the Cheshire volume of Pevsner's Buildings of England and his walking tours of local war memorials were a sell-out event at Barnaby 2014.

How can a church be lost? Henry VIII and the Luftwaffe accounted for a good few, but many and various are the ways in which a church may be lost. It doesn't always end badly however; churches are remarkably resilient and can rise again in spite of all the odds.

Matthew Hyde has written a book on the subject, due out around Easter 2015. In this illustrated talk he will give us a taste of his extensive research into Lost Churches, finding some intriguing examples.

Wednesday 4 February 2015 at 7.45pm
Challenges of Local Government
Alift Harewood

Born and raised in Guyana, Alift trained as a nurse/midwife both in her homeland and the UK. She did voluntary community work and has served as a local councillor since 2001, except when she was mayor, 2012-13. She has lived in Macclesfield for over forty years, and currently serves as Chair of three community groups.

Local Government with its understanding of local needs is in a continuous process of negotiation with National Government; bidding for funds for service to the community with diverse interests. Local Government is best served with the engagement of local residents. Alift will explain her passion for serving the local community and offer insights as to how we can all get more involved.

Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7.45pm
Who needs an agricultural chaplain?
Keith Iveson

Members of the Agricultural Chaplaincy team help people in rural communities, several of whom are suffering greatly because of livestock infected by TB.

The team is led by Canon Keith Iveson, who was born and brought up in the Derbyshire hills where his family had a small hill farm. As he says, he is familiar with the problems as well as the joys and fulfilment that country life brings – and knows from bitter experience that a careless remark by a politician can lead to the loss of a poultry farm!

Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 7.45pm
Shale Gas – more heat than light?
Ian Stewart

The exploitation of shale gas in the UK has provoked a heated debate between those who say that the environmental risks outweigh any economic advantage and those who say that energy security and lower prices should be the deciding factors. The talk will look at the basic geology of shale gas, the process of fracking and the factors which ordinary people living in our local community should take into account when deciding which (if either) side to support.

Ian was formerly Head of Law and Environment, Health and Safety in Northern Europe for Ciba Specialty Chemicals. This background, coupled with his geography degree and lifelong interest in geology, means that he is well qualified to tackle this controversial topic. He has lived in Langley for the last 25 years.

Wednesday 25 February 2015 at 7.45pm
The 18 year old Veteran
Darren Poyzer

At 18, Darren was a caterer in the Royal Navy. He found himself in the thick of the Falklands War, as his ship HMS Broadsword survived an attack that sadly HMS Coventry did not.

On the sea journey home, Darren wrote his first ever poem, a piece that dared to question the conflict, that was published by request in the ship's commemorative booklet. As the docks were lined with flags, tearful families and loved ones to welcome their heroes home, each of his fellow Broadsword crew took with them a copy of his poem.

Darren, the young veteran now just over 50, is still writing and performing with passion and verve about the horror of War. As we mark the Centenary of WWI, he will invite us to re-live in detail his very emotional, personal and powerful journey of understanding.

Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 7.45pm
Buxton Mountain Rescue Team
Kerry Clarke

Buxton Mountain Rescue has been operating since 1964, and is the second busiest of the seven teams in the Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation. Their operational area covers around 400 square miles spread across Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire.

The team's 60 volunteers, plus 4 search dogs (3 search dogs in training), attend to about 70 team call outs and 15 search dog call outs per year, on average.

Buxton Mountains Rescue have good connections with the local community and links to wider, national groups associated with mountain rescue activity.

Kerry Clarke, who lives in Sutton, and other members of the team will give us insights into the challenges and rewards of being part of Buxton Mountain Rescue.