

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

St Lawrence the Martyr, Abbots Langley
with the Church of the Ascension, Bedmond

24th January 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY



TODAY

9.30 am Eucharist at St Lawrence

President &
Preacher: The Revd Peter Waddell
Readings: Gen. 14. 17-20;
Rev. 19.6. 6-10
John 2. 1-11

The 9.30am Sunday Eucharist will be live streamed every week via our YouTube Platform [TheSundayService.org](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8) and Facebook.

CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Please feel free to light a candle and pray but do observe the correct social distancing rules. Be aware of social distancing not only next to you, but behind you and in front of you.

Please could we ask that you use the hand sanitizer provided and do not touch anything you don't need to.

Please do not enter any of the areas which are blocked as these are not cleaned regularly.

We will be open from 09.30 to 16.30
Monday to Saturday and 11.00 to 16.30
on a Sunday.

WELCOME

We're very sorry to announce that we've decided, for the moment, to cease all in person public worship at St. Lawrence and the Church of the Ascension.

This sad decision is obviously due to the grim national and local Covid statistics. We continue to think that coming to church is safe - however, for now, clearly it is even safer not to. It may only make a small difference to the overall picture, but right now we need all the small differences we can get.

We will of course continue to livestream our Sunday morning service each week at 9.30am, on <https://thesundayservice.org/> and our Facebook page. There will however be no congregation physically present at this service.

We'll keep this decision under constant review, and as soon as circumstances allow, look forward to welcoming you back into church. Here's to a much brighter and happier 2021 for us all!

If medical reasons prevent you from attending church, and you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the parish office.

As always you can still contact us via FB, or the Church Office on 01923 261795 or email: adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk.

THE PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

COLLECT: Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace and in all our weakness sustain us by your might power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS:

Gen. 14. 17-20

Rev. 19.6. 6-10

John 2. 1-11

BIBLE NOTES: Why choose, for the very first of your miracles, to change water into wine at a wedding? Great news for the couple concerned and their guests, no doubt, but hardly an agenda worthy of the Messiah! But there is much meaning in the miracle. The Bible is full of wedding feasts, often used as an image for the destiny of all things (as, for instance, in today's reading from *Revelation 19*). It's a good image, because it fuses together the elements of joy and celebration with the idea of lives coming together in

ecstatic unity – just like, the great biblical hope holds, one day God and the world will come together in a great union of gladness. The world will become a wedding. And Jesus, according to the Gospels, is the one who will make all this happen: he is the Bridegroom (see *Mark 2:18-20*), and he is the one who will, in the end, usher in the astounding new marriage of heaven and earth to which all ordinary weddings point. Weddings and marriages here and now may run out of steam, run out of wine, run out of love: the Gospel is that they, like everything else, are going to swept up in an abundance of joy of which they can barely now conceive.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the end of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and forever **Amen.**



FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for:

- » Key workers who are on the frontline helping fight against Coronavirus and all those affected by it.
- » better sharing of the world's resources
- » all those who are struggling to make ends meet
- » all people to know God's blessing and eternal love
- » those who live in Warren Court, Whitley Close, Woodlands Drive
- » for Churches Together
- » those facing great economic uncertainty
- » For all those facing a tough start to 2021
- » For Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, and for the United States of America

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Betty Harris; Henry Bremer; Emma; Charlie Crosby; James Mote; Sean Brosnan; Alison; Holly Jefford; Patricia Lakey; Hugo; Erlend; Kathy Bunting; Hannah; Josh; Olivia

FOR THE DEPARTED

Peter Parmenter; Janet Thompson; Bernice Lawrence; Stephen Moore;

NEXT SUNDAY

FEAST OF CANDLEMAS 31st January 2021

9.30 am Feast of Candlemas, with the Ordination of Maxine Howarth as Priest Eucharist at St Lawrence

President & Preacher: Bishop Michael of Hertford

(Live streamed)

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Malachi 3:1-5;
Heb.2:14-end;
Luke 2:22-40.

AVAILABILITY

Peter's day off is Thursday
Maxine's day off is Friday

THE COMING WEEK

Morning Prayer

Morning prayer will be live streamed daily at 9.15am.



Monday 25th January, 8pm
Zoom Bible Study

Tuesday 26th January, 8pm
Mothers Union Zoom Talk on Salvation Army

Friday 29th January, 12.40pm
Funeral of Bernice Lawrence at WHC



Light a Virtual Candle

If you are unable to get to the church you can light a candle online for yourself, for a loved one or for a situation.

Go to www.thechurchofengland.org.uk
Click on light a candle and follow the prompts.

Coming up...

Mothers Union - 26th January at 8pm, Brenda Southorn will be giving a Zoom talk about the work of the Salvation Army. It is open to all, please contact Jill Matthews gmatthews56@outlook.com for the link.

Ordination of Maxine Howarth as Priest - Sunday 31st January, 9.30am. Bishop Michael of Hertford will be presiding.

Notices...

Audio Version of Outlook

We would be interested to hear from anyone who is interested in receiving a recorded copy of our Outlook magazine each month. We would also like to hear from anyone who might be prepared to read and record the Outlook each month for us.

Bishops Golden Rules

Golden Rule One

Each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So much of the public rhetoric is sowing fear about the danger of other people. So, taking all the official precautions, offer help and reassurance to others – and don't demonise anyone or any group.

Golden Rule Two

Think about who may be suffering more than me. For those of us who are healthy there is much less to worry about but the elderly, the housebound and those with chronic health conditions may be very anxious. How about each church undertaking an audit of all the vulnerable people they know and sharing out the responsibility to phone them each day. There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer solace when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone. If you visit, follow all the official precautions or don't go.

Golden Rule Three

Don't give into panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do your best to help them get it. If you are self-isolating you will of course need some supplies.

Golden Rule Four

Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 – 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

CONTACT NUMBERS

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Curate:

The Revd Maxine Howarth

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Assistant Priest:

The Revd Angela Milton

via the Church Office

Assistant Priest:

The Revd Guy Buckler

via the Church Office

Assistant Priest:

The Revd Brian Hibberd

via the Church Office

Reader:

Mrs Sally Sanderson - 01923 265963

Safeguarding:

Kathryn Goodman on 01923 681760

Church Office Opening Times:

10.00 am to 12.30 pm Mon-Fri - 01923 261795

Email: adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk

If anyone needs the ministry of a priest at any time, day or night, please contact Peter directly.

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