

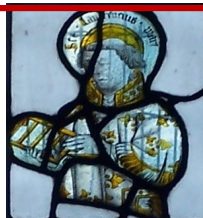


THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

24th December 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EVE



TODAY

8.00am Eucharist at
St Lawrence Church

**President &
Preacher:** Revd. Peter Waddell

Reader: David Staines

9.30am Eucharist at St Lawrence
Church

**President &
Preacher:** Revd. Peter Waddell

Reader: Brenda Southorn

Intercessions: Tom Betteridge

11.30am Eucharist at The Church of
the Ascension

**President &
Preacher:** Revd. Peter Waddell

Reader: John Noonan

Readings:

2 Samuel 7: 1 - 11, 16 (P. 290)

(Romans 16: 25 - end) (P. 161)

Luke 1: 26 - 38 (P. 54)

HYMNS:

64: Of the Father's love begotten

242: The Angel Gabriel from heaven
came

241: Sing we of the blessed mother

25: Creator of the Starry Height

362: Tell out my soul

WELCOME

Welcome to our worship today, especially to visitors and newcomers! Do please make yourself known, and stay for refreshments in the Breakspear room afterwards.

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive communion here. If for any reason you'd rather not, do come for a blessing instead, bringing the service booklet with you as a sign that's what you'd prefer.

Please tell a welcomer before the service if you would like a gluten-free wafer at communion. There is no obligation to receive the wine if this causes anxiety.



Our main Sunday morning service is filmed for live video streaming as well as other special services and can be viewed at www.churchmedia.tv/abbotslangley or via our website www.abbotslangley.org.uk.

Recordings may also be retained and made available through other sites (e.g. Facebook and YouTube). The objective of this is to provide accessibility to those who are unable to attend.

For those unable to attend church due to medical reasons, we will be delighted to bring communion to you at home: please do ask! A T-loop is provided for hearing-aid users.



Refreshments will be served in the Breakspear Room after the 9.30am service.



www.abbotslangley.org.uk

THE PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

COLLECT:

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

‘FOOD FOR THOUGHT’

“And the angel departed from her” (Lk.1:38). The great hour of Mary’s encounter with God’s messenger - in which her whole life is changed – comes to an end, and she remains there alone, with the task that truly surpasses all human capacity. There are no angels standing around her. She must continue the path that leads through many dark moments... how often Mary must have returned inwardly to the hour when God’s angel had spoken to her, pondering afresh the greeting, ‘Rejoice, full of grace!’ and the consoling words, ‘do not be afraid!’. The angel departs; her mission remains, and with it matures her inner closeness to God, a closeness in her heart that she is able to see and touch.

Pope Benedict XVI

Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

26 December

In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen is described as one of the seven deacons whose job it is to care for the widows in the early Church in Jerusalem. His eloquent speech before the Sanhedrin, in which he shows the great sweep of Jewish history as leading to the birth of Jesus, the long-expected Messiah, and his impassioned plea that all might hear the good news of Jesus, leads to his inevitable martyrdom by being stoned to death. As the author of Acts, Luke’s description of Stephen bears direct parallels to that of Christ: for example, the passion; being filled with the Holy Spirit; seeing the Son of God as the right hand of God, as Jesus promised he would be; commending his spirit to Jesus, as Jesus commended his to the Father; kneeling as Jesus did in Gethsemane and asking forgiveness for his persecutors. Witnessing to Jesus by acting like Jesus in every way is thus seen by Luke as of the essence of the Christian life.



FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For all for whom this Christmas is difficult
- For the newborn and their parents
- For all who find themselves far from home
- For all suffering poverty

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Chris Ballard; David Southorn;
Martin Greeves; Ray Wicks; Jo; Holly;
Jan Sanders; Brian Andrews; Greta Mowat;
Christopher Seabrook;

FOR THE DEPARTED

John Swallow

NEXT SUNDAY

31st December 2023

The First Sunday of Christmas

- 8.00am Eucharist St. Lawrence Church
9.30am Eucharist St Lawrence Church
11.30am Eucharist The Church of the Ascension
5.00pm BCP Evening Prayer

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 61: 10 - 62.3 (P. 702)
Galatians 4: 4 - 7 (P. 186)
Luke 2: 15 - 21 (P. 56)

AVAILABILITY

Peter and Helen are off from Tuesday 26th to Saturday 30th December and Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd January.

THE COMING WEEK

Monday - Saturday, 9.15am
Morning Prayer
In the Corpus Christi Chapel

Monday 25th December

9.30am Christmas Day Service
St Lawrence Church
11.30am Christmas Day Service
The Church of the Ascension

Church office is closed

Tuesday 26th December

Church Office is closed

Wednesday 27th December

Church Office is closed

Thursday 28th December

Church office is closed

Friday 29th December

Church Office is closed

*The Church Office re-opens on
Wednesday 3rd January*

There is no collection during today's service. If you would like to give this morning, please use the contactless giving point at the back of Church, or just leave your gift on the offering plates at the back. Thank you.

Many of our worshippers **support the work of the Parish financially** through regular planned giving. If you don't yet, please do—ideally using the Parish Giving Scheme. It is really easy to do: just visit www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for 'Abbots Langley and Bedmond'. Alternatively, please call 0333 002 1260. For any queries about giving to the parish, please email: giving@abbotslangley.org.uk. Parish Giving Packs can be collected from St Lawrence Church or from the Church Office.

- Long-life milk
- Long-life fruit juice
- Tinned meat + fish
- Jars of jam/ honey/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread
- Tinned fruit
- Instant mashed potato
- Tinned tomatoes
- Bags of sugar (especially 500g bags)
- Tinned rice pudding/custard
- Packets of jelly or sponge puddings
- Tinned vegetables
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Little chocolate bars and sweet treats

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services today! (with a real donkey!) 1.30pm (with Makaton signing), 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.00pm. We hope to see you at one of these very special and wonderful services.

There will be no Monday coffee morning on Christmas Day and New Years Day.

The bells will be rung on Christmas Eve from 23:15 – 23:45 and on New Years Eve from 23:30 – 00:10.

Don't forget the Foodbank this Christmas... if you are able to donate food then here is a list of the items most needed:

The Bishop of St Albans will be opening his garden on four Sundays in February and March for people to come and look at the display of snowdrops. Those who came to visit in the summer will know that the garden is delightful, it also has an appeal to visitors in the spring as the snowdrops herald the end of winter. The two acres of garden is an oasis in central St Albans and only open to the public on selected Sundays in the spring and the summer. Spring opening days are 18 February, 25 February, 3 March and 10 March. Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome. Footwear suitable for the time of year is advised. All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Vicar:

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Reader:

Mrs Sally Sanderson - 01923 265963

Director of Music

Marianne Ryall
Email: directorofmusic@abbotslangley.org.uk

Church Office Opening Times:

10.00am until 12.30pm 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.