

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

3rd December 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



TODAY

- 8.00am** Eucharist at
St Lawrence Church
- President:** Revd. Peter Waddell
Preacher: Revd. Helen Neville
- Reader:** Dennis Spooner
- 9.30am** Eucharist at St Lawrence
Church
- President:** Revd. Peter Waddell
Preacher: Revd. Helen Neville
- Reader:** Jan Palmer
- Intercessions:** Maureen Finerty
- 11.30am** Eucharist at The Church of
the Ascension
- President:** Revd. Peter Waddell
Preacher: Revd. Helen Neville
- Reader:** John Noonan
- Readings:**
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
(Psalm 80:1-20)
(1 Corinthians 1:3-9)
Mark 13:24-end
- Hymns:**
2: Christ whose glory fills the skies
24: Come thou long expected Jesus
87: Hail to the Lord's Anointed (1,3,6)
309: Let all mortal flesh keep silence
29: Hills of the North
- 6.30pm** Advent Carol Service

WELCOME

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

If you usually receive communion, you are welcome to do so here regardless of your church background. 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 church hall
after the
9.30am service.**



www.abbotslangley.org.uk

THE PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

COLLECT:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

'FOOD FOR THOUGHT'

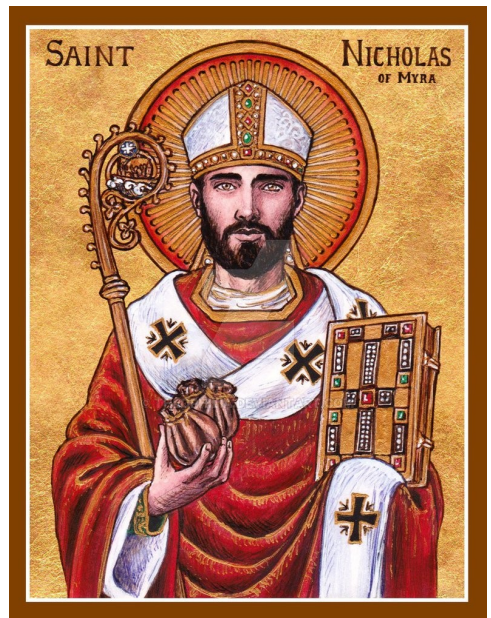
'lasting hope does not come from a cheerful disposition, an unusually high serotonin level perhaps; it comes from the steady habit of reorienting your whole self to God ... slowly we add to the almost imperceptibly thin layers of lasting hope each time we turn our hearts honestly and fully towards God.' Ellen Davis

'I only pray when I am in trouble. But I am in trouble all the time, and so I pray all the time.' Isaac Bashevia.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

6 December

Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (southern Turkey). His reputation as a worker of wonders was enhanced by a ninth-century author of his hagiography and he is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of prostitution by providing them with dowries and so developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated by the Christmas celebrations. Nicholas is also one of the patron saints of Russia.



FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For Israel and Gaza, and conflict zones around the world
- For Soul Survivor Church, Watford
- For the schools of the parish
- For the bereaved as they approach Christmas

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Chris Ballard; David Southorn;
Martin Greeves; Ray Wicks; Jo; Holly;
Jan Sanders; Brian Andrews; Stephen Wray;

FOR THE DEPARTED

Frances Kirkpatrick; Nancy Jenkins;
Ann Brown;

NEXT SUNDAY

10th December 2023

The Second Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am Eucharist at St. Lawrence
- 9.30am Second Sunday Christingle Service
- 11.30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension
- 5.00pm Breathing Space - What's a good Christmas present?

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 40: 1 - 11 (P. 677)
2 Peter 3: 8 - 15a (P. 235)
Mark 1: 1 - 8 (P. 33)

AVAILABILITY

Peter is off on Friday.
Helen is off on Friday.

THE COMING WEEK

Monday - Saturday, 9.15am

Morning Prayer

In the Corpus Christi Chapel

Monday 4th December

Church Office is closed

10.00am Coffee Morning

Breakspear Room

1.45pm Tiny Tots

Breakspear Room

6.30pm Scout Christingle

St Lawrence Church

7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice

St Lawrence Church

Tuesday 5th December

12.00pm Burial of ashes Elaine Naughten

Garden of Remembrance

Wednesday 6th December

10.00am Coffee Morning

The Church of the Ascension (Tin Church)

11.15am Contemplative Prayer

In the Corpus Christi Chapel

12.00pm Eucharist

St Lawrence Church

6.30pm Youth Choir

St Lawrence Church

7.45pm Choir Rehearsal

St Lawrence Church

Thursday 7th December

11.00am Abbots Langley Primary Year One

Christingle Service

St Lawrence Church

5.00pm Abbots Langley Primary Year 5

Performance

St Lawrence Church

8.00pm Friends and Faith Group

Breakspear Room

Friday 8th December

10.00am Bedmond Bells Craft and Chat

The Church of the Ascension

2.00pm Craft and Conversation

Breakspear Room

Saturday 9th December

10.30am CTAL Carol Singing

Outside the Hospice of St Francis Shop

2.00pm Childrens Christmas Workshop

St Lawrence Church

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.paritygiving.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.

The Sunday Christmas Lunch in the Church Hall will now be held on **Sunday 10th December at 12.30pm.**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee morning last weekend. The FOSL raised over £800 and Mothers' Union raised £375. It was a great occasion.

There will be no refreshments served after the 9.30am services on both Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Coffee Morning at the Church of the Ascension (Tin Church) on Wednesday 5th December, 10.00am - 12.00pm. All are welcome.

Nine Lessons and Carols Sunday 17th December 6.30pm in St Lawrence Church. If you are able to provide some mince pies please sign the sheet at the back of church.

All are welcome to our Advent Carol service this evening at 6.30pm in St Lawrence Church. There will be wonderful music, and the story of the King and his Kingdom being told in darkness and candlelight. Put the date in your diary!

CTAL Street Carol Singing - Saturday 9th December. All are welcome to meet outside the Hospice of St Francis charity shop at 10.30am. A soup and bread lunch will be served in the Methodist Church Hall at 12.00pm. Donations in aid of Crisis at Christmas.

Breathing Space - What's a good Christmas present? All are very welcome for an hour exploring some thorny seasonal questions! Sunday 10th December 5.00pm in St Lawrence Church. Coffee and Christmas refreshments will be provided

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

Coffee rota - 30th June can you help? We need two helpers for 30th June. Even if you are not on the rota but can help just for this week, please let Carol or the Church office know.

The all-age Christingle service will be on Sunday 10th December at 9.30am. Each child will be given a Christingle to take home! All are very welcome to attend. **On Saturday 9th December** there is the children's Christmas workshop where the Christingles will be made, along with lots of other fun Christmas arts and crafts. If you would like to attend the workshop please contact the Church office: adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk

CONTACT NUMBERS

Vicar:

Revd Dr Peter Waddell 07552 359046
Email: vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk

Curate:

Revd. Helen Neville 07718 172642
Email: curate@abbotslangley.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer:

Roxanne Yau
safeguarding@abbotslangley.org.uk

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.