

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

18th February 2024

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



TODAY

- 8.00am** Eucharist at
St Lawrence Church
- President & Preacher:** Revd. Peter Waddell
- Reader:** Tom Betteridge
- 9.30am** Eucharist at St Lawrence
- President & Preacher:** Revd. Peter Waddell
- Reader:** Carol Higgs
- Intercessions:** Brenda Southorn
- 11.30am** Eucharist at The Church of
the Ascension
- Reader:** Linda Ball
- President & Preacher:** Revd. Peter Waddell
- Readings:**
(Genesis 9: 8 - 17) (P. 7)
1 Peter 3: 18 - end (P. 232)
Mark 1: 9 - 15 (P. 33)
- Hymns:**
95: Forty days and forty nights
458: Have faith in God, my heart
97: Lord Jesus think on me
322: Soul of my Saviour
455: Guide me O thou great Redeemer
- 5.00pm:** Taizé Service
St Lawrence Church
- 6.30pm:** Nameless Youth group
St Lawrence Church Hall

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.

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!



**Refreshments
will be served
in the Church
Hall after the
9.30am service.**



www.abbotslangley.org.uk

COLLECT:

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

‘FOOD FOR THOUGHT’

'All ten commandments ... were dependent for their potency on the first. There were other gods, after all, who did not put the same value on moral principle as did the God of Israel. Some placed a premium on beauty; some on knowledge, some on power. The Ten Commandments were not merely instructions, but an expression of the very identity of the God of Israel. His Chosen People were being called to live, not as his slaves, but as men and women brought closer to him, to share in his nature.' (Tom Holland, *Dominion*, p.53)

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna

23 February

Honoured as one of the first Christian martyrs, Polycarp had been Bishop of Smyrna on the Adriatic coast of Asia Minor for over forty years when the persecution of Christians began. He was arrested and given the option to renounce his faith and so save his life. His response was: "I have been Christ's servant for eighty-six years and he has done me no harm. Can I now blaspheme my King and my Saviour?" He was immediately burnt at the stake. His remains were gathered together and buried outside the city; thus began the practice of celebrating the eucharist over his burial place on the anniversary of his death, a practice which also grew over the martyrs' tombs in the Roman catacombs. Polycarp died in the year 155.

ANTHEM

Thou Knowest Lord the Secrets of Our Hearts (*Purcell*)

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;

Shut not thy merciful ears unto our pray'rs;

But spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.

O holy and most merciful Saviour,
Thou most worthy Judge eternal,

Suffer us not at our last hour,

For any pains of death to fall away from Thee.

Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For the whole church, that we may keep a holy Lent
- For the parish of St. Michaels and All Angels, Watford
- For all struggling with the cost of living
- For those taking part in the CTAL Lent Course

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Chris Ballard; Martin Greeves; Ray Wicks; Jo; Bishop Alan; The King;

FOR THE DEPARTED

Kathleen Neal;

NEXT SUNDAY

25th February 2024

The Second Sunday of Lent

- 8.00am Eucharist St. Lawrence Church
- 9.30am Eucharist St Lawrence Church
- 11.30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension
- 3.30pm The Spark Service at St Lawrence Church

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Genesis 17: 1 - 7, 15 - 16 (P. 13)
Romans 4: 13 - end (P. 150)
Mark 8: 31 - end (P. 42)

AVAILABILITY

Peter is on annual leave Monday - Friday. Helen is off on Friday and on a residential Saturday 24th - Sunday 25th.

THE COMING WEEK

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

Church Office is closed Monday 19th - Friday 23rd

Monday 19th February

10.00am Coffee Morning
Breakspeare Room

7.00pm Friends of St Lawrence
Fundraising Meal
La Banq

7.30pm Bell ringing practice
St Lawrence Church

Tuesday 20th February

12.30pm CTAL Lent Course
Breakspeare Room

8.00pm CTAL Lent Course
Zoom

Wednesday 21st February

11.15am Contemplative Prayer
In the Corpus Christi Chapel

THERE IS NO EUCHARIST TODAY

8.00pm Choir Rehearsal
St Lawrence Church

Thursday 22nd February

12.30pm Women of the New Testament
Breakspeare Room

THERE IS NO FRIENDS AND FAITH GROUP TODAY

Friday 23rd February

10.00am Bedmond Bells Craft and Chat
The Church of the Ascension

2.00pm Craft and Conversation
Breakspeare Room

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.

Women of the New Testament - Thursdays from 12.30pm - 2.00pm in the Breakspear Room. This daytime Bible group will be turning to look at some of the women of the New Testament (bring your lunch!).

Outside of the Gospels, Paul's Letter to the Romans has a good claim to be the most influential Christian writing ever. For good or ill, it has shaped how Christians think for two thousand years. It is glorious, infuriating, complex, simple, bewildering, good for the soul and rich for the mind. Come and find out why, as our **Friends and Faith sessions** look at this letter over the coming weeks. **Thursday at 8pm in the Breakspear Room**, and everyone is very welcome!

The Friends of St Lawrence are holding an evening at the popular village restaurant, La Banq, on Monday 19th February 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £20pp for two courses (drinks not included). This is a new venture for the Friends and promises to be a wonderful evening. Contact: Wendy Meldrum for tickets on wendymeldrum@gmail.com or text 07710 688633.

The Sunday Lunch in March will now be held on the 4th Sunday - 24th March at 1.00pm.

Book of Remembrance - we shall shortly be sending our Book of Remembrance to have it updated. If you have loved ones buried in the Garden of Remembrance and have been thinking about an entry in the book please get in contact with Amanda in the Church office as all entries will need to be received by 8th March, so that it can be included.

Malawi trip in May - we are asking people to do some knitting and sewing for the nurseries we will be visiting when we are there. If you are a knitter, there are some patterns at the back of the Church for knitting animal glove puppets. If you are a sewer we will have some alphabet panels for you to sew. See Wendy Meldrum for advice. **Do you have any white or plain coloured sheets** that you no longer need? We need them for making the alphabet panels that we will be taking to Malawi.

CTAL Lent Course - 'Be Still' looks at how to make the best of some daily time with God starting Tuesday 20th February—19th March 12.30pm - 2pm in the Breakspear Room. There is also a Lent Course via Zoom starting Tuesday 20th February 8pm - 9pm, until 19th March (Zoom details provided by the Church Office).

CONTACT NUMBERS

Vicar:

Revd Dr Peter Waddell 07552 359046
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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.***