

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

5th January 2025

EPIPHANY



TODAY

- 8.00am** Eucharist at
St Lawrence Church
- President & Preacher:** Revd Helen Neville
- Reader:** Tom Betteridge
- 9.30am** Eucharist at St Lawrence Church
- Reader:** Phill Higgs
- Intercessions:** Tom Betteridge
- President & Preacher:** Revd. Peter Waddell
Revd Helen Neville
- 11.30am:** Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension
- President & Preacher:** Revd Helen Neville
- Reader:** Wendy Ball
- Readings:**
Isaiah 60: 1 - 6 (P. 700)
(Ephesians 3: 1 - 12) (P. 189)
Matthew 2: 1 - 12 (P. 1)
- Hymns:**
89: O Worship the Lord
497: Let all the world
91: We three Kings
83: As with gladness
84: Brightest and Best
- 5.00pm:** Breathing Space Service - Would we recognise Jesus if he came among us today?
At St Lawrence Church

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

The Epiphany

6 January

COLLECT:

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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:

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Seen on the internet....



The subtitle in the *Book of Common Prayer* of this, one of the principal feasts of the Church, is 'The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles'. This emphasises that, from the moment of the Incarnation, the good news of Jesus Christ is for all: Jew and Gentile, the wise and the simple, male and female. Nothing in the Greek text of the gospels indicates that the Magi were all male and even the number three and making them Kings is a much later, non-scriptural tradition. The date chosen to celebrate this feast goes back to the placing of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the winter solstice: the north European pre-Christian tradition of celebrating the birth of Sun on 25 December differed from the Mediterranean and eastern tradition of having 6 January as the Solstice. As often happens, the two dates merged into a beginning and an end of the same celebration. The western church adopted 'the twelve days of Christmas' climaxing on the eve of Epiphany, or 'Twelfth Night'. The implication by the fifth century was that this was the night on which the Magi arrived. The complications of dating became even more confused with the changing in the West from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar, the eastern church refusing to play any part in such a radical change. So this day remains the chief day of celebrating the Incarnation in Orthodox Churches.



FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For our schools as they begin a new term.
- For the parish of St Peter's, Bushey Heath
- For the work of the Watford Foodbank
- For all looking for a new start.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Chris Ballard; Liz Brooker; Christopher Seabrook; Bernie Eamer; Stephen Murray.

FOR THE DEPARTED

Betty Harris; Douglas Bishop; Edith Calderwood; Alan Hawkes; Emlyn Parry; Lin Lythaby

NEXT SUNDAY

12th January 2025

The Baptism of Christ

- 8.00am Eucharist at St Lawrence Church
- 9.30am Second Sunday Service at St Lawrence Church
- 11.30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension
- 5.00pm BCP Evening Prayer

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 43: 1 - 7 (P. 682)
Acts 8: 14 - 17 (P. 123)
Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 - 22 (P. 57)

AVAILABILITY

Peter is off Monday.
Helen is off Friday.

THE COMING WEEK

Monday - Saturday, 9.15am

Morning Prayer
In the Corpus Christi Chapel

Monday 6th January

10.00am Coffee Morning
Breakspear Room

7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice
St Lawrence Church

Tuesday 7th January

10.00am Tiny Tots
Breakspear Room

Wednesday 8th January

11.00am Mothers' Union
Breakspear Room

12.00pm Eucharist
St Lawrence Church

2.00pm Compassionate Café
Breakspear Room

3.30pm Messy Church
Methodist Church

6.30pm Youth Choir practice
St Lawrence Church

8.00pm Choir practice
St Lawrence Church

Thursday 9th January

12.00pm - 2.00pm Bedmond Bells
Community Café
The Church of the Ascension (Tin Church)

8.00pm Friends and Faith Group
Breakspear Room

Friday 10th January

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

2.00pm Craft and Conversation
Breakspear 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: churchwarden2@abbotslangley.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who donates to the Watford Foodbank. The items that are most needed at the moment are: Cereals, Milk (long life), Fruit Juice (long life), Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Vegetables, Rice Pudding, Custard, Jam, Tea/Coffee, Mashed Potato, Pasta, Pasta Sauces, Biscuits/Snack Bars. **Please make sure that all donations are unopened and are within the use by date. Items can be left at the collection point at the back of church, or in the dedicated basket at Sweeneys. Thank you.**

Breathing Space is today at 5.00pm in St Lawrence Church. *'Would we recognise Jesus if he came among us today?'* Come and join us for some interesting and lively discussion with refreshments. All opinions welcome.

Join in the fun at the Sing a Long to Mary Poppins! Saturday 25th January at 6.00pm. Tickets £7 per person. Bring your own drinks. This is a fund raiser in aid of Malawi. For tickets contact: wendymeldrum@gmail.com or the church office 01923 261795

Friends and Faith returns at 8pm on Thursday 23rd January in the Breakspear Room, when we'll be starting a six-week look at the Lord's Prayer. Give it a go: it's a great way to make friends at church and grow deeper in your relationship with God. Everyone welcome, ask Peter for more details.

Please return your **Christingle candles** packed with loose change for the Childrens Society. Bring them to a service or drop them in at the parish office over the next three weeks, so we can send a big donation off to support this vital work.

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar:

Revd Dr Peter Waddell 07552 359046
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Curate:

Revd. Helen Neville 07718 172642
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Safeguarding Officer:

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Churchwarden

Tom Betteridge
churchwarden2@abbotslangley.org.uk

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 or Helen directly.