



# Outlook

**December 2025**

**Abbots Langley  
and Bedmond  
Parish  
Magazine**

**50p**



## Dear Reader

Welcome to the final edition of *Outlook* for 2025!

As we wrap up another year, we're delighted to bring you one more packed issue to enjoy.

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support the magazine — whether you read it, contribute articles, proofread, print, or help with delivery. Your efforts and enthusiasm make *Outlook* what it is, and we're so



grateful for your involvement throughout the year.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2026.

Amanda Hawkes  
Assistant Editor of *Outlook*



## Musical opportunities at St Lawrence

Music plays a big part at St Lawrence Church. If you are interested in finding out more contact Director of Music, Marianne Chapman  
[Directorofmusic@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:Directorofmusic@abbotslangley.org.uk)



## Breathing Space Schedule

St Lawrence Church, 5.00pm

**7th Dec:** *Should Christmas be banned?*  
(No Breathing Space in January)  
**1st Feb:** *How can the Church survive?*

Come to relax, reflect, and join thoughtful discussions in a friendly setting. Refreshments provided. All are warmly welcome.

## Christenings taken in November

Cían Shortland McCabe  
Rónán Shortland McCabe





# December Calendar



## REGULAR SERVICE

### TIMETABLE

#### Sunday

**8am** Eucharist

at St. Lawrence

**9.30am** Eucharist

at St. Lawrence

**11.30am** Eucharist at

the Church of the

Ascension

#### Wednesday

**12.00 noon** Eucharist

#### Monday to Saturday

**9.15am** Morning Prayer

## WEEKLY EVENTS

*Weekly events do not  
happen on a bank  
holiday.*

#### Monday 10am

Coffee Morning

*Breakspear Room*

#### Tuesday 10.30am

Tiny Tots

*Breakspear Room*

(Term time only)

#### Thursday 8.00pm

Friends and Faith Group

*Breakspear Room*

#### Friday 2pm

Craft and Conversation

*Breakspear Room*

## OTHER EVENTS

#### Monday 1st 6.30pm

Scout Christingle

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Wednesday 3rd 10am

Coffee Morning

*The Tin Church*

#### Wednesday 3rd 2pm

Compassionate Café

*Breakspear Room*

#### Thursday 4th 6pm

Christmas Lights

Switch On

*St Lawrence Churchyard*

#### Saturday 6th 9.30am

Churchyard Working Party

(CWP)

*St Lawrence Churchyard*

#### Saturday 6th 7.30pm

The Watford Band

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Sunday 7th 5pm

Breathing Space

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Sunday 7th 6.30pm

Nameless Youth Group

*Breakspear Room*

#### Wednesday 10th 11am

Mother's Union

*Breakspear Room*

#### Wednesday 10th 3.30pm

Messy Church

*Methodist Church*

#### Friday 12th 7.00pm

Kings Langley Community

Choir Concert

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Saturday 13th 2pm

Children's Christmas

Workshop

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Sunday 14th 1pm

Christmas Sunday Lunch

*St Lawrence*

*Church Hall*

#### Sunday 14th 6.30pm

Bedmond Carols

*The Tin Church*

#### Thursday 18th 5.30pm

Carols Round the Tree

*The Tin Church*

#### Sunday 21st 6.30pm

Nine Lessons and

Carols Service

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Wednesday 24th 1.30pm.

2.30pm. 3.30pm. 4.30pm

& 6.00pm

Candlelight Services

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Wednesday 24th 11.45pm

Midnight Mass

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Wednesday 24th 11.45pm

Midnight Mass

*The Tin Church*

#### Thursday 25th 9.30am

Christmas Day Service

*St Lawrence Church*

#### Thursday 25th 11.30am

Christmas Day Service

*The Tin Church*



## M. K. Ginder & Sons FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*"The Family Concern, Concerned About Families"*

*Serving the Community Since 1983*

Since 1983 we have been looking after families from Watford and the surrounding areas at their time of need. We pride ourselves on being the Local Independent **Family-Run Funeral Directors** offering the **Complete Funeral and Memorial Service**.



**GOLDEN CHARTER**  
FUNERAL PLANS



M K Ginder Limited trading as M.K. Ginder & Sons Funeral Directors is an appointed representative of Golden Charter Limited trading as Golden Charter Funeral Plans which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:965279).

**Call Us Now  
for your free  
Funeral Plan  
brochure**

51 High Street  
Abbots Langley  
WD5 0AA

**Tel: 01923 269994**

**Or we can make the  
arrangements at your home  
at a time that suits you.**

Further details are available on our website: [www.ginder.co.uk](http://www.ginder.co.uk)



### Contact Us:

07852 146857

  
**LITTLE FAWNS**  
Preschool & Forest School  
St Lawrences Church Hall  
Abbots Langley

**15 & 30 hour  
Childcare Support  
Funding available  
for 2, 3 & 4 year  
olds**

**For children  
age 2-5 years old  
Open 8am -  
4.30pm  
Monday - Friday**

**Shared care  
available with  
Abbots Langley  
School Nursery  
& local  
Childminders**



[www.littlefawnspreschool.co.uk/  
abbots-langley](http://www.littlefawnspreschool.co.uk/abbots-langley)

**citizens  
advice** **Three  
Rivers**

Your local office gives advice on a wide range of topics including debt, employment, relationship breakdown, benefits and consumer and housing issues.

Current opening times as below. Please see our website for email enquiries and full details of our service:

[www.threeriverscab.org.uk](http://www.threeriverscab.org.uk)

Abbots Langley: 01923 271 707 Mon 10 - 4, Tues & Thurs 10 - 3, Wed & Fri 10 - 1  
Rickmansworth: 01923 293 136 Mon, Tues & Thurs 10 - 3.30, Wed & Fri 10 - 12.30  
South Oxhey: 0208 515 8321 Mon to Fri 10 - 4, Wed specialist appointments only  
County wide Adviceline: 0800 144 8848, Mon-Wed 10am - 9pm Thurs & Fri 10am to 8pm Saturday -10am to 4pm.  
This number also uses Relay UK, type in 18001 then 0800 144 8848



# Messy Church

As winter is now upon us it was good to have Messy Church to brighten a dull November day! We had lots of exciting things to do this month and there were lots of families who came along to join in the fun!

We had a very busy afternoon with lots of children and lots of crafts for them to do. Our story was the healing of Jairus's daughter and our theme was "Never give up hope!". To illustrate the story the children made a sliding model of Jairus's daughter and the food craft was an iced biscuit model of Jairus's house with a jelly baby at the front door to represent his daughter coming back to life! The children also painted some very messy pictures and made some prayer book marks with the words of the theme printed on them.

Our December meeting on:-  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December will be our Christmas Messy Church**  
at the Methodist Church as usual from 3.30pm – 5.45pm. We will have our **traditional nativity scene and Messy Church Christmas party tea**. So do come along and join us!

Messy Church is free but we welcome donations. Please contact Wendy if you would like to come to December's meeting on [wendymeldrum@gmail.com](mailto:wendymeldrum@gmail.com). It is useful for us to know who is coming so we can cater for the crafts and Messy Church Christmas party tea.

Everyone is welcome ... do come along and join in the fun!



## A Visit to the Hospice of St Francis

A couple of months ago, a small group from St Lawrence, including members of our Bereavement Visiting Team and myself, had the privilege of visiting the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted — the charity that received the proceeds from this year's church fete. It was a deeply moving and inspiring visit, and we wanted to share something of what we saw.

We were warmly welcomed by Sarah, one of the hospice team, who gave us a tour and helped us understand more of the work they do. The first thing that struck us was the setting. The hospice is nestled in beautiful grounds: a peaceful garden with seating areas, summer houses, and a gentle water feature surrounding by countryside views. It is the sort of place where you immediately feel able to breath.

Inside, we were shown some of the facilities for both staff and guests, including the chapel — a simple,

prayerful space. On one of its walls is a striking memorial display, with the names of loved ones who have died. It is a tender reminder of the lives remembered there and the care that continues for families long after a death.

Although the hospice has space to care for up to eight patients at a time, we learned that much of their work now happens in people's homes, offering support, expertise, and comfort where it is most needed. The charity receives very little funding from sources such as the NHS, and relies largely on donations and volunteer-led support.

It was wonderful to see first-hand the difference that our fundraising helps to make. The Hospice of St Francis is a place of compassion, dignity, and hope — and we are proud to support their work. More information about the hospice can be found at [www.stfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk).

*Revd Helen Neville*



## Sally Sanderson

On the Feast of Christ the King, our Lay Reader Sally Sanderson became our Lay Reader (Emerita) as she preached for the last time after more than thirty years of ministry in the parish. Sally's preaching has been marked by a warm smile and gentle spirituality, very much in the mould of her inspiration St. Francis. We thought it was fitting to mark her retirement with a gift of a St. Francis statue – complete with birdbath! – for her garden. We'll miss her preaching greatly. Now ... who else out there might make a good lay preacher? Could it be you?



## Baptisms and Confirmations at the Abbey

It was wonderful at the end of October to celebrate five new members of our church at a service of baptism and confirmation at St. Albans Abbey. Bishop Richard baptised Andrew Procter, Laurence Upjohn, and Phil Cowderoy – all of whom were confirmed alongside Rachal Gregory and Vicky Edwards. It's brilliant to see new people growing in their relationship with God and coming to this major point of commitment. Might it be you in 2026? Do speak to Peter or Helen if you'd like to explore further....



## The Friends of St Lawrence

As we go to press, the Friends of St Lawrence committee are preparing for our annual Christmas Coffee Morning with the Mother's Union on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November. We are looking forward to a fun, busy morning serving our usual bacon and sausage butties with coffee and cake. We will give a full report of it in January's Outlook including the amount raised.

Please look out for our calendar of events for 2026 in the New Year. We have some exciting things planned starting off with one of our Friends meals in a local Abbots Langley restaurant in February. So look out for our 2026 events and put them in your diaries!





# Robins

There are many myths and legends surrounding one of Britain's favourite wild birds. As a traditional symbol of Christmas, the robin has been appearing on cards since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

We have robins in our gardens, in the churchyard at St Lawrence and in the area around the Church of the Ascension at Bedmond all year round although numbers are boosted as some robins also migrate to this country to escape the harsh European winters. Maybe we also notice them more in the winter as they come to bird tables and as they are more visible once the leaves have fallen off of the trees. Robins are also one of the first birds to sing in the dawn chorus and they sing at twilight too. They are fiercely territorial and singing is a way of marking their territory as well as a way of attracting a mate.

These are a couple of the Christian myths associated with robins which you may or may not have heard. It was said that a robin pulled a thorn from Christ's head when he was on the cross, wearing a crown of thorns and it was Christ's blood that stained the robin's breast red. It was also said that St Serf of Kinross, who lived in Scotland in the sixth century, was befriended by a robin. Every time he prayed, the bird would sit on his shoulder. However, one of his disciples, who was jealous of St Serf, killed the bird. One of Serf's followers, his foster-son, Kentigern, prayed over the robin and brought it back to life. Kentigern became St Mungo and went on to found Glasgow Cathedral.

But what was the origin of robins appearing on our Christmas cards?



The first robins appeared on Christmas cards in the 1880s, as a result of the bright red uniforms worn by Royal Mail postmen. The British public nicknamed them "robins". As members of the public awaited the postman's arrival, especially at Christmas, when they were expecting cards from family and friends who lived far away, they would be delighted to see the "robin" walking up the garden path. Hence Christmas cards in the 1880s began to show a colourful drawing of a postman in his bright red coat, carrying a sack of mail. As he was nicknamed the "robin", some artists drew a picture of a real robin, chirpily carrying a Christmas card in his beak. This cemented the robin's association with Christmas and today, the humble bird is an integral part of the festive season more than 130 years later, with his image appearing on millions of Christmas cards.





## Subscription Renewal

We hope you have enjoyed reading the Outlook magazine throughout 2025. We are very grateful to you and all our advertisers for your support. This is a great way to keep in touch with all the things concerning St Lawrence and The Church of the Ascension Bedmond. Now is the time to renew your subscription for 2026. It makes it a lot easier for us if you can renew by BACs but we understand that is not possible for everyone. If you can renew by sending the money straight into the bank account then these are the details:

Sort code:- 30 99 21

Account no:- 01540225

Account Name:-The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Lawrence Abbots Langley

Cost is £6 for the whole year or £17.50 if you need us to post it to you.

If however your preferred option is to pay in cash please can you drop the money into the church office in an envelope marked with your name and address, marking it Outlook or you can post into the wall safe in church, again in an envelope marked with your name and address.

If you were not on the list for 2025 but would like us to deliver it to you during 2026 please contact the church office so we can add you to the lists of those who have it delivered.

Thank you.

## Packing for Malawi

*(See write up on page 18)*



## From the Vicar

My first mince pie this year came three weeks ago - and the next day I heard that Wham! song again for the first time. The Christmas season, it seems, has thoroughly begun.

Except of course, it hasn't. One of the problems of doing Christmas too early is that you miss some distinctive December notes.

Like, for instance, December 8th. Roman Catholics call this day the Feast of the Immaculate Conception; Anglican prayerbooks are more coy, simply describing it as the Conception of the Virgin Mary. It marks the very beginning of Mary's life – not, as is often mistakenly assumed, that of Jesus. From early in the Church's life, certainly by the fifth century, many Christians sensed that there was a great mystery in the conception of Mary, worth pondering and celebrating.

After many centuries of reflection, the Roman Catholic Church declared in 1854 that belief in the 'Immaculate Conception' of Mary was *de fide* – an integral part of Christian faith which a fully orthodox believer must accept. The claim is that from the very beginning of Mary's life, she was never affected by 'original sin' – that the broken, messed up, sinful nature all of us share was not shared by her. God's grace preserved her from this from the very moment of her conception. Her human nature, uniquely, is what God always wanted it to be.



Nearly all Anglicans, like nearly all Protestants, have not wanted to say this. And they have certainly denied that it is an essential part of full Christian belief. This is partly because they (we) have said that if something is not clearly taught in Scripture, it cannot be *de fide* – and nobody claims that the Immaculate Conception is obvious from the Bible. There's also a general Protestant scepticism re saints, and any sense that there might be intermediaries between humanity and God other than Jesus Christ. We've tended to think that Roman Catholics make a great deal too much fuss about Mary, and have seen the idea of her Immaculate Conception as a prime example of this. Surely, we've often said, Mary is a sinner just like us?

We should note, however, just how shocking that last statement would be to most of the Christian world. By as early as the fourth century, the overwhelming Christian consensus would have been horrified by the idea that Mary is 'a sinner, just like us.' Augustine refused to even countenance the possibility. Centuries later – surprisingly and awkwardly for his Protestant successors – Martin Luther took the same stance. Indeed, for most of Christian history the only debate about Mary and sin turned

on precisely when God had made her sinless. Was it at the very beginning of her existence (the ‘immaculate conception’) or at some later point – whilst still in her mother’s womb, at birth, or even later at the Annunciation? Whenever it was, she wasn’t a sinner just like us: our contemporary disdain for Mary is something of an anomaly in Christian history.

Why have most Christians wanted to make these startling affirmations about Mary? It all stems from thinking deeply on her role as the Theotokos – the God-bearer or, as it is usually translated in the West, the Mother of God. That title, incidentally, is not some weird Roman extravagance – that Mary is truly the Mother of God is basic Christian orthodoxy. The one who begins to be in her womb at the Annunciation is none other than God incarnate. He is no mere inspired man: He is God translating Himself into human existence. The one who gives birth to Him is the Mother of God.

And what does that mean? As the great Anglican theologian Jeremy Taylor said, it’s not just a matter of receiving him – as a purse might receive and hold a coin. No, Mary conceives him. That is, he really comes from her: his flesh, his bone, his blood, his brain – it is all of her. She not only gives birth to Christ, she gives rise to Christ. And this has made many Christians ask: would the incarnate God choose not only to reside within, but to derive his human existence from, a corrupted, fallen source? No, the reply has come, God will have formed a woman worthy to be the God-bearer. The human being from whom God’s own humanity comes, will be the kind of human being God always

wanted – a full, free, glorious, sinless new Eve.

What else, after all, did the angel Gabriel mean at the Annunciation with that greeting: ‘Hail Mary, full of grace’? Was he just paying an exaggerated compliment? The more Catholic-minded side of the Christian tradition has said ‘no’: she really was *full of* grace. She needed to be, to give her radical, free, open-hearted consent to God (who, it is emphasised, would not become incarnate without her consent: her ‘yes’ is to that extent necessary for our salvation!). And if she was full of grace, there was no room for sin in her life. The Bible may tell us nothing about Mary’s conception, but it does tell us how, for example, God prepared the prophet Jeremiah even in the womb for his mission (Jer. 2:5). Yet compared to Mary, his role in salvation is minor. If God fashioned him from the very beginning, how much more so will He have done for the Theotokos?

Well – we’re Anglicans. Part of the point of being Anglican is to say that none of this can be *de fide*. Good Christians can and will disagree about it. Perhaps, however, one good use of our Advent might be to reflect on whether we might have something serious to learn from most of the Christian world, and come to see that there really is something quite astonishing about Mary. Why not use December 8th for just such thinking?

*Peter*

# Looking back at ALGSS

**Articles from the Parish Magazines of 1950 and 1951 describing the foundation of the Abbots Langley Gilbert and Sullivan Society by our Founder, the Vicar, the Revd Raymond Wilkinson**

He writes:

## September 1950-

**Amateur Operatics** There will be an open meeting, to which all interested people are invited, **at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, in the Village Hall**, to explore the possibilities of forming an Amateur Operatic Society in the Village, and it is my hope that such a Society, if formed will be able to produce a Gilbert and Sullivan Opera next Spring. To my mind there is no more rewarding pleasure than the staging of such operas, which are universally loved and are so much of a national institution. It has been made clear to me that such a venture would have the backing of many local people of musical ability, and I hope that this meeting will see the proposed Society become an established fact.

## October 1950

**Amateur Operatics** Following upon a most enthusiastic initial meeting, the newly-formed local Amateur Operatic Society has got away to an immediate start in rehearsing every Monday from 8 to 10pm in the Village Hall for the production of "The Mikado" next Spring. Forty members have already joined and any "voices" will be very much welcomed. Anyone possessing vocal scores which they will lend will

put us in their debt. Copies may be left at the Vicarage and good care will be taken of them.

## December 1950

**An Advance Notice** The Abbots Langley Gilbert and Sullivan Society, which has been enthusiastically rehearsing "The Mikado" for the past three months, is to stage the production at Leavesden Hospital all with its superb stage and accommodation, during the week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> January. Tickets for the production will be available in early January, and a first class production with an entirely local solo lead, is promised. The Watford Light Orchestra will accompany. It is rumoured that some well known local personalities will be seen in a completely new guise!

## March 1951

**The Mikado** The Abbots Langley Gilbert and Sullivan Society's first "stupendous production" was for so long the main topic of conversation in the Village and so fully reported on by the Press that further serious comment would be superfluous,

**And so it all began!** and has continued to flourish for the last 75 years.

To celebrate we are once again presenting The Mikado and it promises to be another "stupendous production" We still have very strong links with St Lawrence among our fine soloists.. Pooh Bah, Katisha, Pitti Sing and Peep

*(Continued on page 13)*



*(Continued from page 12)*

Bo are being played by Alex Horrox-White, Emma Stratton, Kathy Bunting and Claire Stephenson respectively who all are, or have been, members of the church choir.

The show is funny colourful and full of wonderfully familiar music and Director Philip Joslin has an original and innovative approach to the show. However, for the traditionalists there are still plenty of fans and kimonos!

Tickets are now available to see The Mikado at The Watford Palace Theatre from January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, just 75 years and one week from the very first show that ALGSS did. Please help us to celebrate this wonderful anniversary by

booking at 01923 225671 or on line at [www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk).

*Brenda Southorn*  
President ALGSS



---

## A Quarter Peal

On Friday 7th November our bellringers rang a quarter peal. This is the entry that will be published in ringing world to record their achievement and to mark and congratulate Helen on her appointment.

Hertford County Association  
Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire  
St Lawrence  
Friday, 7 November 2025 in 43m  
(9–2–25 in F#)  
1260 Norwich Surprise Minor  
1 Adam Greenstreet  
2 Susan V E Bassett  
3 Sue Carpenter (C)  
4 Andrew M Reeve  
5 James C Tuck  
6 Phillip B Higgs  
5 - First quarter of Norwich.

For the Revd. Helen Neville, Curate at Abbots Langley, in recognition of her appointment as Vicar of St. Luke's, Bricket Wood.

---

## Remembrance Sunday

Hundreds of people gathered on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial in St Lawrence Churchyard to pay their respects. Local residents veterans, and visitors stood together to honour those who gave their lives in service.

*Photo  
courtesy of  
Tony  
Lenten*



**Local Independent  
Funeral Directors**  
**Working for Local People**



**J & S Funeral Service** is committed to providing professional, compassionate and dignified funeral services at very competitive prices. Our funerals can be tailored to suit individual requirements, from the more elaborate cortege with horse drawn hearse to a simple eco funeral, and all receive the same high level of personal service and attention to detail.

We provide:

- a personal and professional 24 hour service;
- accessible office with car parking at front of premises;
- a private Chapel of Rest;
- funeral services for the whole of the West Herts area;
- services for all faiths and denominations;
- home arrangements, if preferred;
- Golden Charter pre-paid funeral plans;
- motor and horse drawn hearses;
- floral and monumental tributes.

17 School Mead, Abbots Langley WD5 0LA  
Tel: 01923 262939 (24 hours)

**Penny Waterman School of Dance**



Children's Ballet Classes

In St Lawrence's Church Hall, Abbots Langley  
for ages 2 to 8 years  
Saturday mornings  
9.00 – 9.30am Ages 2 - 4 years  
9.40 – 10.10am Ages 5 - 8 years

Tel: 01727 858632  
Email: [pwsd@pennywaterman.com](mailto:pwsd@pennywaterman.com)  
[www.pennywaterman.com](http://www.pennywaterman.com)

**Abbots Langley Gardening Society**

[www.algs.org.uk](http://www.algs.org.uk)  
FOR ALL YOUR GARDENING NEEDS  
Shop open all year, monthly Social Evenings  
Newsletters, Outings, 2 Shows, discounted seeds  
**CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO JOIN?**  
Jane Lay (Sec) - 01923 447281 (message only)



**Phil Davis**

Professional, independent advice  
for all your holiday and travel needs  
ABTA Bonded ~ ATOL Holder

**Tel: 01494 415010**

[phil.davis@thepersonaltravelagents.co.uk](mailto:phil.davis@thepersonaltravelagents.co.uk)

**Caroline Freeman BSc Hons &  
Licentiate in Acupuncture**

Traditional Chinese Medicine & Five Element  
Acupuncturist  
Acupuncture for both physical and emotional  
support & balance  
Free 15-minute phone consultation to discuss  
any symptoms you are experiencing and  
answer any questions you have.

07590 528645

[caroline@healinghandsacupuncture.co.uk](mailto:caroline@healinghandsacupuncture.co.uk)  
<https://www.healinghandsacupuncture.co.uk>

**Mandy Thomas Experienced Private Carer  
DBS certificate and fully insured**

Assisting in the home.; personal care; doctors/  
hospital appointment; planning/cooking meals; trips  
out; shopping trips; experienced hairdresser.

**Please call me 07725891029**

**£50.00 per year to advertise  
in this space.**

**Contact the Church Office:**  
[adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk)

**GARSTON TV & RADIO**

FOR ALL YOUR DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL  
SALES, SERVICES & REPAIRS  
**YOUR LOCAL EURONICS DEALER**  
74 HIGH STREET, ABBOTS LANGLEY  
Tel - 01923 263738

**Meeting Rooms for Hire**  
**Church Hall (Fully equipped kitchen)**  
**Breakspear Room (Basic kitchen facilities)**  
**Church of the Ascension (Basic kitchen facilities)**

## PARISH DIRECTORY

*The code 01923 precedes all the telephone numbers unless stated otherwise*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Abbeyfield (West Herts) Society                | Marcus Coultrup (334387)   |
| Bedmond Bells WI                               | Janette Noonan 01923 266921 or Moira Bunting 01923 262242  |
| Bedmond Village Carpet Bowls                   | Margaret Forrest (670989)  |
| Bedmond Village Hall                           | Simon Smith (07401 331302)   |
| Bell Ringing                                   | Phill Higgs (07973 265666)   |
| Bowling Club                                   | off Langley Road (alongside the Scout HQ)  |
| Breakspeare Community Pre-School               | (by Tannerswood School) (274483)   |
| Brownies, Rainbows and Guides                  | <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested">www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested</a>                                   |
| A/L Carers and Former Carers Support Group     | Brenda Southorn 07933 144117   |
| Churches Together                              | Brenda Southorn 07933 144117   |
| Citizens Advice Bureau                         | 01923 271 707, see advertisement on page 4   |
| Community Centre                               | (to hire 07530 266293)   |
| Cricket Club                                   | <a href="http://www.abbotssc.hitssports.com">www.abbotssc.hitssports.com</a>   |
| Evergreen Youth FC                             | Ian Turner (266640)  |
| Family Planning                                | Garston Clinic (234525) Mon & Wed 6.00 – 8.00 pm   |
| Flower Arrangement Society                     | Sylvia Clinton (262678)  |
| Friends of St Lawrence                         | Bill Sanderson (265963) / Wendy Meldrum (07710688633)  |
| Friends of The Tin Church                      | Church Office: 01923 261795  |
| Gardening Society                              | Jane Lay (447281)  |
| Gilbert & Sullivan Society                     | Brenda Southorn 07933 144117   |
| Hillside Residents Association                 | School Mead (261734)   |
| Home Start (Helping Families Under Stress)     | (248010)   |
| Infant Welfare Clinic                          | St Saviour's Hall - Monday 1.30 to 3.00 pm (264639)  |
| Jo Jingles                                     | Mags Bilson (222529)   |
| Library  | Open: Mon & Thu 1.00pm-6.00pm; Tue & Fri 9.30am-6.00pm Sat 9.30am - 1.00pm; Wed & Sun closed all day                       |
| Little Fawns Pre School                        | 07852 146857 Email: <a href="mailto:abbotslangley@littlefawnspreschool.co.uk">abbotslangley@littlefawnspreschool.co.uk</a> |
| Local History Society                          | Or visit <a href="http://www.littlefawnspreschool.co.uk">www.littlefawnspreschool.co.uk</a>                                |
| Mothers' Union                                 | Delva O'Reagan (267585)  |
| Orchestra (ALO)                                | Jill Matthews (262046)   |
| Parent & Toddler Group                         | Penny Abbot (01442 873205)   |
| Parish Council and Halls                       | Community Centre; Tue, Wed & Friday 9.15-11.15 am  |
| Players (ALP)                                  | Council Office, Langley Road (265139)  |
| Royal British Legion                           | Jean James (461549)  |
| St Lawrence Church Hall                        | Secretary: Chris Driscoll (01923 675563)   |
| St Lawrence Church Flower Arrangers            | Church Office (261795)   |
| Scouts: 1st Abbots Langley (3rd North Watford) | Church Office (261795)   |
| Langleybury Scout Group                        | Chair: Richard Gabriel <a href="mailto:chair@abbotslangleyscouts.co.uk">chair@abbotslangleyscouts.co.uk</a>                |
| Youth FC                                       | 5thnwscoats@gmail.com  |
|  | Tim Denyer (270563)  |

**GPS PRINTWORKS**

**We have moved to:  
Unit 7 Mowat Industrial Estate  
Watford WD24 7UY**



***For all your printing needs....***

**Tel: 01923 242128  
Kevin: [sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk](mailto:sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk)  
Lea: [studio@gpsprintworks.co.uk](mailto:studio@gpsprintworks.co.uk)**

# Bedmond Bells WI

As I write Autumn is really here, with the leaves mostly down. However, we have had some lovely sunny days, as well as some spectacularly wet ones.

At our recent November meeting, we had a short talk from a representative from Abbots Langley library, who told us all about what the library offers. There is a lot going on there, and a range of services and opportunities available to young and old. She also set us a twelve-point challenge to complete before the New Year to get us out of our comfort zones. A number of us took it up – we shall see how we do. After the talk we took part in a Christmas craft activity to create a woven ribbon Christmas card, which everyone completed and enjoyed.

We are looking forward to a winter canal trip in December, with mince pies and mulled wine to keep us warm, and our December meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> when we will hold our seasonal celebration.

Lastly, we held a successful Community Café in the Tin Church at the end of November. Everyone chatted as they enjoyed a delicious soup and roll lunch and a good time was had by all. The cakes were also popular (of course). We will plan to hold another café in January, so keep an eye open for the posters.

Visitors are always welcome, so do come along. We meet on the second Friday of each month, except August, at 7.30 pm in Bedmond Village Hall.

Contact Details -

Carol Paley (President) – 07932 007353

Moira Bunting – 01923 262242

bedmondbellswi@gmail.com

## Immy and Kathy in Concert

Immy and Kathy in Concert on November 8<sup>th</sup> was a huge success and all who went were absolutely captivated by the quality of our two amazing singers. We were treated to a wonderful variety of songs from classics such as Faure's "Pie Jesu" to "Memory" from Lloyd-Webber's musical, Cats! It was a great success financially and the donations were divided between the Friends of St Lawrence and the Malawi Project. Both organisations would like to extend a thank you to all who made the evening such a success in particular to Jan Bailey who accompanied Immy and

Kathy and to all who came along to support the concert. Of course, the greatest thanks go to Immy and Kathy for all their hard work in preparing for the concert and for such an amazing performance on the night.

**Thank you  
Immy and  
Kathy!**





# A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

**Celebrate a simpler and greener Christmas.**

As Advent begins, let us turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas - God with us, Emmanuel. The humble birth of a child in a stable may seem distant from the way we celebrate today, but it offers a profound reminder of simplicity. This season, let's reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell. Consider A Rocha UK's blog on journeying towards a zero-waste Christmas [arocha.org.uk/journeyingtowards-a-zero-waste-christmas](http://arocha.org.uk/journeyingtowards-a-zero-waste-christmas). May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story.

For more eco tips visit:  
[arocha.org.uk/wild-christian](http://arocha.org.uk/wild-christian)



---

## QR Codes

If you would like to access the website for either St Lawrence and the Church of the Ascension or for St Albans Cathedral, you can do so by scanning the QR codes below.

QR code for St Lawrence Church and The Church of the Ascension



QR code for St Albans Cathedral



### Churchwardens

Richard Baldwin  
([churchwarden1@abbotslangleigh.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden1@abbotslangleigh.org.uk))

Tom Betteridge  
([churchwarden2@abbotslangleigh.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden2@abbotslangleigh.org.uk))

St Lawrence Church Abbots Langley *and*  
The Tin Church Bedmond

To submit an article for Outlook, please contact the Church office.



### CONTACTS

**Vicar: The Revd Dr Peter Waddell**  
Tel: 01923 263013  
Email: [vicar@abbotslangleigh.org.uk](mailto:vicar@abbotslangleigh.org.uk)

**Curate: The Revd Helen Neville**  
Mobile: 07718 172642  
Email: [curate@abbotslangleigh.org.uk](mailto:curate@abbotslangleigh.org.uk)

### THE CHURCH OFFICE:

High Street  
Abbots Langley  
WD5 0AS  
Tel: 01923 261795  
Email: [adminstlawrence@abbotslangleigh.org.uk](mailto:adminstlawrence@abbotslangleigh.org.uk)  
Website: [www.abbotslangleigh.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangleigh.org.uk)

# Malawi Update

## The Container

Wednesday November 19<sup>th</sup> saw the Malawi Team working flat out packing items for the container bound for Malawi via our dropping off point in Leicester. We are particularly grateful to the Scouts for allowing us to use the Scout Hut in Langley Road to carry out our mission. The day started at 8.30am putting out all the tables to receive the donated items for sorting before packing into rubble bags and then all the bags have to be registered and labelled. It is a mammoth task! We packed nearly 100 bags and packages! The hall was booked till 5pm and we finished all the packing by one minute to five!!

Thank you to all the people who came to help the team with the packing, we most definitely could not have done it without you! We had teams sorting and packing baby and children's clothes, knitwear, hospital equipment and school equipment and then at the end of the day a team to pack the van. The next day David and Eileen drove a packed van to Leicester, a new storage depot for us. This year, the Birmingham Diocese hasn't sent a container to Malawi as a result of the difficulties they have had with the journey through Mozambique and their agent in Malawi, instead they have found a new carrier for this year only and we have used them. This means that the container won't leave the UK immediately and they will notify us when the load is full and ready to undertake the journey to Malawi. We will keep you up to date on its progress

We would like to give a huge thank you to all those people who have contributed to the container in so many different ways. People have been so generous with their donated items and we were able to send a large variety of equipment to the hospital, school and community. Thank you to those who have made and knitted clothes, to those who have so thoughtfully collected items and to those who have given monetary donations... everything we send will be so gratefully received by the hospital, school, and community in Malosa. **THANK YOU EVERYONE ... we couldn't have done it without you!!**

## EVENTS

Many thanks to Stratosfrere who gave us a wonderful concert on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> November especially as all the money raised went to the Malawi Project. It was quite something to be rocked by a live band in Church playing 60's and 70's music! We look forward to their return performance.

**EVENTS FOR 2026:** Please look out for our events for the coming year in next month's edition of Outlook and put them in your diaries.

**Our first 2026 event will be our usual sing a long in January.**

---

## Mothers' Union

MU will meet on Wednesday 10th December with an Advent Meditation at 11.00am in the Breakspear Room followed by Communion in church at 12.00noon. All are welcome - please contact Pam Rastall for further details - [pamrastall@live.co.uk](mailto:pamrastall@live.co.uk)

# THE WATFORD BAND

PRESENTS  
A CONCERT CELEBRATING

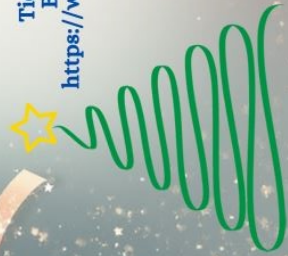
## Christmas

**Saturday 6th December 2025 @ 7.30 pm**  
**St Lawrence Church**  
**High St, Abbots Langley, WD5 0AS**

**We are featuring our development band**  
**Brass Beats**

The concert begins at 7.30 pm.  
Adults £10 | Children Free  
Tickets are available to buy at the door.  
Buy in advance through Ticketsource:  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/watfordband>  
Contact 07796 175838 to buy tickets.

<http://www.watfordband.org.uk>  
Registered charity no. 1105301



# Christmas

At The  
Church of the  
Ascension  
(Tin Church)



## CAROL SERVICE

14th DEC

6.30PM

## CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

18th DEC

5.30PM

## MIDNIGHT MASS

24th DEC

11.45PM

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

25th DEC

11.30AM



# Christmas at St Lawrence



30TH NOV ADVENT CAROLS  
6.30pm

13TH DEC CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP  
2pm - 4pm

14TH DEC CHRISTINGLE SERVICE  
9:30am

21ST DEC NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS  
6.30pm

24TH DEC 'DONKEY SERVICE'  
1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm

24TH DEC MIDNIGHT MASS  
11.45pm

25TH DEC CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
9.30am



**Deadline for all content for January Outlook is Friday 12th December**