

# THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

10th December 2023

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## 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

**11.30am** Eucharist at The Church of  
the Ascension

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

**Reader:** Janette Noonan

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

**5.00pm** Breathing Space -  
What's a good Christmas  
present?

## 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](http://www.churchmedia.tv/abbotslangley) or via our website [www.abbotslangley.org.uk](http://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](http://www.abbotslangley.org.uk)

### COLLECT:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### 'FOOD FOR THOUGHT'

'That every human being possessed an equal dignity was not remotely a self-evident truth. A Roman would have laughed at it. To campaign against discrimination on the grounds of gender or sexuality, however, was to depend on large numbers of people sharing a common assumption: that everyone possessed an inherent worth. The origins of this principle - as Nietzsche had so contemptuously pointed out - lay not in the French Revolution, nor in the Declaration of Independence, nor in the Enlightenment but in the Bible.' (Tom Holland).

## Breathing Space

### What's a good Christmas present?

Sunday 3rd December, 5.00pm  
in St Lawrence Church

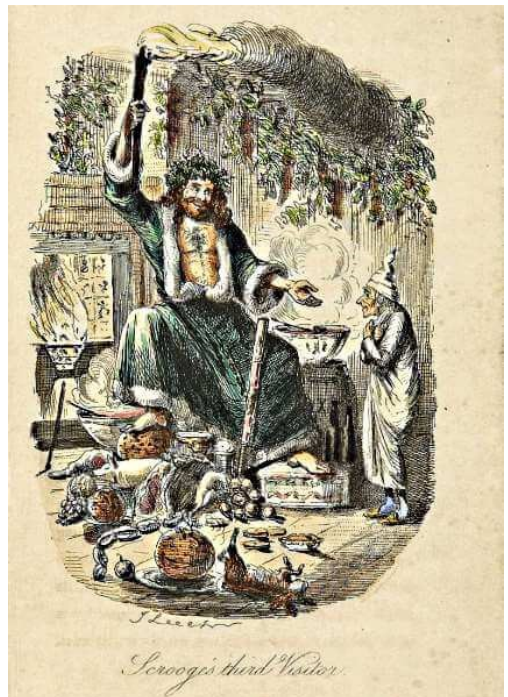
Should a Christmas present be something that someone actually needs?

Is it really the thought that counts?

Why don't people write thank you letters anymore?

All are very welcome for an hour exploring some thorny seasonal questions!

Coffee and Christmas refreshments will be provided.



## FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For Israel and Gaza, and conflict zones around the world
- For prisoners and their families
- For the parish of All Saints Leavesden
- For those living far from their homes.

### FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

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

### FOR THE DEPARTED

Nancy Jenkins; Ann Brown;

## NEXT SUNDAY

**17th December 2023**

### The Second Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am Eucharist at St. Lawrence
- 9.30am Eucharist at St Lawrence
- 11.30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension
- 3.30pm Christmas Carol Service  
The Church of the Ascension
- 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols  
Service at St Lawrence Church

## READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Psalms 126 (P. 584)  
Isaiah 61: 1 - 4, 8 - end (P. 702)  
1 Thessalonians 5: 16 - 24 (P. 202)  
John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28 (P. 88)

## 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 11th December**

10.00am Coffee Morning

*Breakspeare Room*

1.45pm Tiny Tots

*Breakspeare Room*

7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice

*St Lawrence Church*

### **Wednesday 13th December**

10.00am Chiltern Bell Ringers

*St Lawrence Church*

10.40am Funeral of Ann Brown

*West Herts Crematorium*

11.00am Mothers' Union

*Breakspeare Room*

11.15am Contemplative Prayer

*In the Corpus Christi Chapel*

12.00pm Eucharist

*St Lawrence Church*

3.30am Messy Church

*Methodist Church*

6.30pm Youth Choir

*St Lawrence Church*

7.45pm Choir Rehearsal

*St Lawrence Church*

### **Thursday 14th December**

2.30pm Bell Ringers

*St Lawrence Church*

6.00pm Bedmond Carols around the Tree

*The Church of the Ascension (Tin Church)*

8.00pm Friends and Faith Group

*Breakspeare Room*

### **Friday 15th December**

10.00am Bedmond Bells Craft and Chat

*The Church of the Ascension*

2.00pm Craft and Conversation

*Breakspeare Room*

### **Saturday 16th December**

10.30am - 4.00pm

FOSL Christmas Wreath Festival

*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.parishgiving.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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 is today, **Sunday 10th December at 12.30pm.**

**Thank you to everyone who supported the Coffee morning.** 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.

**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.

**Breathing Space is this evening!- What's a good Christmas present?** All are very welcome for an hour exploring some thorny seasonal questions! 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.**

### **Donkey Services on 24th December**

Carol needs two more people to help welcome everyone at the **6pm service** on Christmas Eve. If you would like to be part of this wonderful event could you let her know. She would also appreciate it if there is anyone who could come at the end of the service to help clear up and put the church straight ready for midnight mass.

**Bedmond Christmas Carols** at the Church of the Ascension (Tin Church) Sunday 17th December 3.30pm. Come along and enjoy this wonderful event. Hot chocolate and mince pies will be served after the service.

**Reflective Service - 'There's something about Mary'** Thursday 21st December 8.00pm. Thinking about the woman at the heart of Christmas. Put the date in your diary!

**Christmas Eve Donkey Services:** 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.

## **CONTACT NUMBERS**

### **Vicar:**

Revd Dr Peter Waddell 07552 359046  
Email: [vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk)

### **Curate:**

Revd. Helen Neville 07718 172642  
Email: [curate@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:curate@abbotslangley.org.uk)

### **Safeguarding Officer:**

Roxanne Yau  
[safeguarding@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@abbotslangley.org.uk)

### **Reader:**

Mrs Sally Sanderson - 01923 265963

### **Director of Music**

Marianne Ryall  
Email: [directorofmusic@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:directorofmusic@abbotslangley.org.uk)

### **Church Office Opening Times:**

10.00am until 12.30pm Mon-Fri - 01923 261795  
Email: [adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk)

***If anyone needs the ministry of a priest at any time, day or night, please contact Peter directly.***