

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

4th February 2024

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)



TODAY

8.00am Eucharist at
St Lawrence Church

President &

Preacher: Revd. Peter Waddell

Reader: Dennis Spooner

9.30am Eucharist at St Lawrence
Church

President &

Preacher: Revd. Peter Waddell

Reader: Norman Meldrum

Intercessions: Tom Betteridge

11.30am Eucharist at The Church of
the Ascension

President &

Preacher: Revd. Peter Waddell

Reader: Anne Goldsmith

Readings:

Hebrews 2: 14 - end (P. 216)

Luke 2: 22 - 40 (P. 56)

Hymns:

369: All people that on earth do dwell

360: Faithful vigil ended

391: Blessed are the pure in heart

308: Just as I am without one plea

513: Lord the light of your love

3.00pm: Choral Evensong

5.00pm: Breathing Space
Why aren't people getting
married?

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 PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

COLLECT:

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

'FOOD FOR THOUGHT'

The perilous tendency among us is always to appeal to averages or majorities; to ask ourselves what kind of religion we can induce men in general, rich or poor, to accept and welcome; to make religion easy; to abstain from asking too much; to accommodate the requirements of religion to what we suppose men in general will be ready to accept ... our Lord chose and sanctified exactly the opposite method. He appealed with the whole truth, for the whole of the man's heart.

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph took the child to the Temple in Jerusalem. The requirement in Levitical law was for Mary to be 'cleansed', the completion of her purification following the birth of a male child. Until that day, she could touch no holy thing nor enter the sanctuary. Yet on seeing the holy family, Simeon praised God and acclaimed the infant as 'the light to enlighten the nations' and the prophet Anna gave thanks and proclaimed him her Redeemer. The image of Christ as the Light has led to the celebration of light countering darkness, with candles often taking a central place in the observance.



ANTHEM:

O gladsome light, O grace

O gladsome light, O grace
Of God the Father's face,
The eternal splendour wearing;
Celestial, holy, blest,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Joyful in thine appearing.

Now, ere day fadeth quite,
We see the evening light,
Our wonted hymn outpouring;

Father of might unknown,
Thee, his incarnate Son,
And Holy Spirit adoring.

To thee of right belongs
All praise of holy songs,
O Son of God, Lifegiver;
Thee, therefore, O Most High,
The world doth glorify,
And shall exalt for ever.

*Greek, 3rd Century or earlier.
Translated R.Bridges; set by L. Bourgeois*

FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For the parish of St. Luke's, Watford
- For the Church of England, and its unity
- For the people of Malosa, Malawi
- For political leaders making decisions about war and peace

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Chris Ballard; Martin Greeves; Ray Wicks; Jo;

FOR THE DEPARTED

Karin Cutting; Jan Sanders; Russell Smith;

NEXT SUNDAY

11th February 2024

The Sunday next before Lent

- 8.00am Eucharist St. Lawrence Church
9.30am Eucharist St Lawrence Church
11.30am Bible Brunch
5.00pm BCP Evening Prayer

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

2 Kings 2: 1 - 12 (P. 342)
2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6 (P. 177)
Mark 9: 2 - 9 (P. 42)

AVAILABILITY

Peter is off on Monday.
Helen is at a conference on Wednesday and is off on Friday.

THE COMING WEEK

Monday - Saturday, 9.15am

Morning Prayer

In the Corpus Christi Chapel

Monday 5th February

10.00am Coffee Morning

Breakspear Room

1.45pm Tiny Tots

Breakspear Room

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

St Lawrence Church

8.00pm Social Committee Meeting

Lysander Way

Tuesday 6th February

10.00am Funeral of Russell Smith

West Herts Crematorium

Wednesday 7th February

10.00am Coffee Morning

Church of the Ascension

11.15am Contemplative Prayer

In the Corpus Christi Chapel

12.00pm Eucharist

St Lawrence Church

6.30pm Youth Choir

St Lawrence Church

8.00pm Choir practice

St Lawrence Church

Thursday 8th February

12.30pm Women of the New Testament

Breakspear Room

8.00pm Friends and Faith Group

Breakspear Room

Friday 9th February

10.00am Bedmond Bells Craft and Chat

The Church of the Ascension

2.00pm Craft and Conversation

Breakspear Room

Saturday 10th February

12.00pm Christening of Dominic and Max Wilson

St Lawrence Church

2.00pm Burial of Ashes Karin Cutting

Garden of Remembrance

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.

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

Breathing Space - Why aren't people getting married? Today at 5pm in St Lawrence Church! Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

Today, Sunday 4th February, at 3.00pm you are welcome at the CTAL Choral Evensong for Candlemas, St Lawrence Church. Join us in celebrating the feast of Candlemas (the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple) at our Churches Together in Abbots Langley evensong service. Refreshments served after the service.

Wednesday 7th February Coffee morning at the Church of the Ascension. Tea, coffee, occasional homemade cakes, handmade cards, home produce, books and bric a brac on sale. All are very welcome.

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 Breakspeare Room**, and everyone is very welcome!

Mother's Union Pancake Lunch Tuesday 13th February at 12.30pm in St Lawrence Church Hall. Come along and enjoy a cheese roll and pancakes! £5 per person. Profits to Mothers' Union projects. All are 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.

Sound of Music Sing-along: Many thanks to the 55 attendees who were at the Sing-along, there was not a dry eye in the house! Congratulations to Jim Reeder and Andy Steven who won the fancy dress competition. Sally Sanderson dressed as a nun really looked the part!! Many thanks to Richard Baldwin and Vince McLoughlin for installing, in time, the newly acquired AV equipment in the hall. It works really well. The evening raised £619 for the Malawi fund. People are so supportive, thank you all.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Vicar:

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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.