

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

31st December 2023

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



TODAY

8.00am Eucharist at
St Lawrence Church

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

Reader: Hilary Sampson-Barry

9.30am Eucharist at St Lawrence
Church

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

Reader: Wendy Meldrum

Intercessions: Sally Sanderson

11.30am Eucharist at The Church of
the Ascension

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

Reader: Pam Rastall

Readings:

Isaiah 61: 10 - 62.3 (P. 702)

(Galatians 4: 4 - 7) (P. 186)

Luke 2: 15 - 21 (P. 56)

HYMNS:

76: While Shepherds Watched

45: Away in A Manger

44: Angels from the realm of glory

The First Nowell

Good Christians all rejoice

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! 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

COLLECT:

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

‘FOOD FOR THOUGHT’

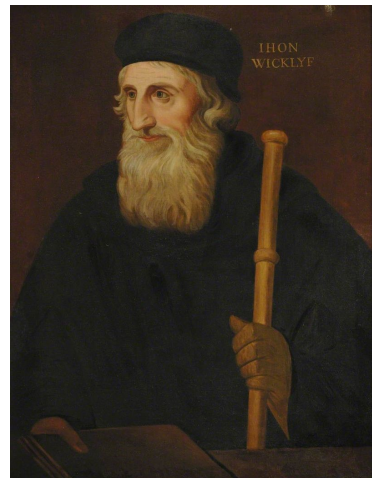
I have often quoted the words of the seventeenth century saint Francis De Sales, given to a lady who was asking his advice about spiritual direction. He said, "I'll start giving you spiritual direction when you have begun to walk more slowly, talk more slowly, and eat more slowly." Our stillness has a great deal to do with being aware of our behaviour in all these matters. Am I giving out the impression of always being utterly driven, compelled in all I do, in such a way that I cannot stop and listen? (Rowan Williams)

Drop your grand pretensions, you're a sinner. Drop your small ambitions, you're the love of His heart. (Tim Keller)

John Wyclif, Reformer

31 December

John was a member of the Wyclif family of Richmond in Yorkshire and was born in about the year 1330. He was a fellow of Merton College Oxford, and Master of Balliol, but his expulsion from the Wardenship of Canterbury Hall (later incorporated into Christ Church) in favour of a monastic foundation led to a lawsuit and a life-long hatred of things monastic. He was much in favour with members of the royal family and, when disputes arose owing to his attacks on the clergy of the day, he was protected by them from the otherwise inevitable consequence of deprivation of his posts. However, he went on to deny the Church's teaching of the presence of Christ at the eucharist, the doctrine known as transubstantiation, and it was this that lost him his royal protection. His opinions were formally condemned in 1381 and he was forced out of office by the university the following year. John had already moved to Lutterworth in 1380 and from there he gave his support to such projects as the translation of the Bible into contemporary English. He died on this day in 1384, whilst at Mass.



FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For all for whom this holiday season is hard
- For those facing life changes in the New Year
- For all struggling with addiction of any form
- For the parish of Christchurch and St. Mark's.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

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

FOR THE DEPARTED

John Swallow

NEXT SUNDAY

7th January 2024

The Baptism of Christ

- 8.00am Eucharist St. Lawrence Church
9.30am Eucharist St Lawrence Church
11.30am Eucharist The Church of the Ascension
5.00pm BCP Evening Prayer

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 60: 1 - 6 (P. 700)
Psalm 72: (1-9) 10 - 15 (P. 545)
Ephesians 3: 1 - 12 (P. 190)
Matthew 2: 1 - 12 (P. 903)

AVAILABILITY

Peter and Helen are on annual leave
Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd January and
are both off on Friday.

THE COMING WEEK

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

Monday 1st January

Church office is closed

Tuesday 2nd January

Church Office is closed

Wednesday 3rd January

9.45am Bell Ringers
St Lawrence Church

Thursday 4th January

8.00pm Friends and Faith Group
Breakspeare Room

Friday 5th January

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

2.00pm Craft and Conversation
Breakspeare Room

Saturday 6th January

9.30am Churchyard Working Party
(CWP)
St Lawrence Churchyard

10.30am Watford District Ringers
St Lawrence Church

1.00pm Christening of Maisy McLaird
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 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.

Don't forget the Foodbank ... if you are able to donate food then here is a list of the items most needed:

- Long-life milk
- Long-life fruit juice
- Tinned meat + fish
- Jars of jam/ honey/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread
- Tinned fruit
- Instant mashed potato
- Tinned tomatoes
- Bags of sugar (especially 500g bags)
- Tinned rice pudding/custard

- Packets of jelly or sponge puddings
- Tinned vegetables
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Little chocolate bars and sweet treats

There will be no Monday coffee morning on New Years Day.

The bells will be rung on New Years Eve from 23:30 – 00:10.

The Bishop of St Albans will be opening his garden on four Sundays in February and March for people to come and look at the display of snowdrops. Those who came to visit in the summer will know that the garden is delightful, it also has an appeal to visitors in the spring as the snowdrops herald the end of winter. The two acres of garden is an oasis in central St Albans and only open to the public on selected Sundays in the spring and the summer. Spring opening days are 18 February, 25 February, 3 March and 10 March. Entrance is £5 per person (children free) and dogs on leads are welcome.

Footwear suitable for the time of year is advised.

All money raised is donated to the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, St Albans AL3 4HS.

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.