



Outlook

February 2024

**Abbots Langley
and Bedmond
Parish
Magazine**

50p



Dear Reader

It's difficult to believe that we are in February already, but here we are with another packed edition for you. We hope that you will enjoy reading what's been going on in the Parish as well as news on upcoming services

and events, including the next FOSL fundraising event, plus plenty more. See you in March!

*Amanda Hawkes
Assistant Editor of Outlook*

Here are some of the wonderful entries at the Christmas Wreath Festival in December. You can read what happened at the festival on page 18.

*Entry from
the
Rainbows*



Entry from Tanners Wood Primary School



*Entry from the Abbots Langley
Gilbert and Sullivan Society*

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 Ryall. directorofmusic@abbotslangley.org.uk





February 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

11.15am Quiet Prayer

12.00 noon Eucharist

Monday to Saturday

9.15am Morning Prayer

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

Monday 10.00am

Coffee Morning
Breakspeare Room

Monday 1.45pm

Tiny Tots
Breakspeare Room

Thursday 8.00pm

Friends and Faith Group
Breakspeare Room

Friday 10.00am

Bedmond Bells Craft and
Chat
*The Church of the
Ascension*

Friday 2pm

Craft and Conversation
Breakspeare Room

Thursday 1st, 8th, 15th,
22nd, 29th 12.30pm

Women of the New
Testament Bible Group
Breakspeare Room

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 3rd 9.30am

Churchyard Working
Party (CWP)
St Lawrence Churchyard

Sunday 4th 3.00pm

CTAL Candlemas Service
St Lawrence Church

Tuesday 13th 12.30pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
St Lawrence Church Hall

Wednesday 14th 11.00am

Mother's Union
Breakspeare Room

Wednesday 14th 13.30pm

Messy Church
Methodist Church

Wednesday 14th 8.00pm

Ash Wednesday Service
St Lawrence Church

Sunday 18th 12.30pm

Sunday Lunch
St Lawrence Church Hall

Sunday 18th 5.00pm

Taizé Service
St Lawrence Church

Sunday 18th 6.30pm

Nameless Youth Group
St Lawrence Church Hall

OTHER EVENTS CONTINUED

Sunday 25th 3.30pm

The Spark Service
St Lawrence Church

Dates
for your Diary



Funerals taken in January

John Swallow

James Dodds



Christenings taken in January

Maisy McLaird





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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

Friends of St Lawrence

MEAL AT LA BANQ

The Friends are very excited to add a new venture to their series of events...

**MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY:
LA BANQ, ABBOTS LANGLEY
7pm for 7.30pm**

Come along to this fantastic opportunity to eat at one of the best restaurants in the village. The tickets are £20.00 pp for two courses (not including drinks) bought in advance. We will meet at La Banq and then enjoy a delightful meal together in a beautiful venue. For tickets please email Wendy Meldrum on: wendymeldrum@gmail.com or text: 07710 688633. Or contact the Church Office on 01923 261795.

FRIENDS OF ST LAWRENCE: CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2024

This is our calendar of events for the year. Please put the dates in your diaries now and we will give you more details nearer the event. It promises to be an exciting year!

***Monday 19th February: Meal at La Banq**
*** Saturday 18th May: Wine tasting**
Saturday July 6th & Sunday July 7th
Guided Tours of St Lawrence (part of ALF)
***September 28th: Quiz Night**
Saturday November 30th: Christmas Coffee Morning
Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th
December: Christmas Wreath Festival

*These are ticketed events

Outlook Subscription

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who already have renewed their subscriptions for the year. If you do not yet subscribe, did you know that we can deliver your Outlook for free to any address within our parish. This means you never miss an issue and you keep up to date with everything that is happening. The cost will remain at £6 for the year. If you would like it posted further afield the cost will be £15 including postage.

Drop us an email to: adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk if you would like to be added to our distribution list or give Amanda a ring on 01923 216795

If you already subscribe but have not yet renewed your subscription it would be really helpful if you could do so within the next couple of weeks, If you are able to pay by BACs these are the details that you need:

Abbots Langley PCC - St Lawrence & Church of the Ascension
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Account no 01540225
Ref Outlook and your surname

If you are unable to pay using BACs please could drop the cash into the church office in an envelope marked with your name and the word OUTLOOK that would also help us.



Messy Church



We started our New Year at Messy Church thinking about the promises that we will make for the coming year. We listened to the story of Noah's Ark and how God made his promises to us and we wrote prayers to ask God to help us keep the promises we had made. All the crafts had a Noah's Ark theme, from a dove of peace made out of a paper plate to a wonderful lion painted with a fork ... very messy!

Our next Messy Church will be on February 14th and as it falls on St Valentine's Day, there will definitely be some Valentine's Day crafts! So why not come and join us for Messy Church on:

**FEBRUARY 14TH FROM
3.30 – 5.45PM
ABBOTS LANGLEY METHODIST
CHURCH**

Please let us know if you are coming so that we can plan for the crafts and for Messy Tea which is the meal that we provide. Contact Wendy Meldrum on wendymeldrum@gmail.com or the Church Office on 01923 261795.

Please come and join in the fun ... everyone is welcome!



Mothers' Union

January meetings began with our AGM, Corporate Communion and New Years Lunch at The Royal Oak which 13 members and friends attended.

On 13th February Shrove Tuesday we will be holding our Pancake Lunch in the church hall at 12.30pm. Lunch will be Cheese roll, pancake and a drink. There will be a small cake stall and raffle. Monies raised will be for Mothers Union projects at home and abroad. All are welcome.

On 14th February, which is Ash Wednesday, there will be coffee and chat in the Breakspear Room, with the theme being Butchers, Bakers and Undertakers (the History Society's project). This will be followed by communion in St Lawrence Church for Ash Wednesday.

Looking forward we will be making Palm crosses for the Parish on 20th March 10am to 12.00pm. (Training given on the day.) All are welcome.

For more information about Mothers' Union contact: Jill Matthews, Branch Leader, Mothers' Union Parish of St Lawrence, Abbots Langley

Email: matthewsjill2410@gmail.com
Mobile: 07966887380.

Bedmond Bells WI

We have planned an interesting and varied programme for 2024. This started at our January meeting with an informative talk by Pierre du Bois on the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital. This centre has some relevance to some of our members, so we found it especially interesting.

Last week we tried a new venture, a Community Café held in the Tin Church. Soup and a filled roll and tea and cakes were provided by our WI members and the whole event proved very successful, with a good attendance and lots of chatter and camaraderie. Our local police came along to chat and answer any queries about personal safety and other issues of concern, which was very much appreciated. A number of people attending asked if we were going to repeat the event, as they enjoyed it so much! It was a lot of work for the group of WI ladies who organised it and did the preparation, but as it was so successful, we will definitely hold another one – watch this space, as the date has yet to be agreed.

We are getting ideas together for some outings and visits later in the year and hope to visit some local gardens as well.

In September, we gave each member a hyacinth bulb (with a pot and soil) to grow over the winter. These are now coming into flower, all at different rates, but some lovely blooms. We won't be able to display them all together but hope to complete a photo montage of all the blooms in due course.

The Tin Church Craft Group, supported by WI members, continues to meet each Friday morning from 10.00am to 12.00pm. We would be happy to see anyone who would like to pop in.

We have gained new members throughout last year, which is encouraging. We welcome anyone interested – remember, you can attend as a visitor up to three times to 'test the waters'. For further information see the contacts below.

Christine Hunt – President
christinehunt@gmail.com or
01923 573236

Moira Bunting – 01923 262242
BedmondBellsWI@yahoo.com
Facebook: BedmondBellsWI

go Green(er) for Lent

The weeks leading up to Easter are a great time to start or give something up that benefits nature and helps address climate change. Is there a change you can make to better care for creation and improve our lives and the lives of others through healthy, eco-friendly and sustainable living?

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

At the moment we have two young people volunteering with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Daniel is making us cakes every week for Sunday coffee and Charlotte has been helping with a variety of things including the children's Christmas workshop, setting up the church ready for our nativity services on Christmas Eve and working as a volunteer in the churchyard. Here Charlotte tells us a bit about herself and what she is doing to achieve her bronze award.

Hi, I'm Charlotte Robinson, I'm 14 and I'm currently volunteering at St Lawrence's Church for my bronze DofE. The DofE award is widely recognised as one of the leading youth achievement award, and is a great opportunity to build and learn new skills. Over this school year, I'm working on completing my 6 months of a skill, and 3 months of physical activity and volunteering, each of those with 1 hour a week. In June I will be doing my expedition which consists of 2 days, 1 night and about 15 miles altogether to achieve the award. So far at St Lawrence, I've had a great time helping out with the children's Christmas workshop, helping prepare for the Nativity, and removing ivy from the Church walls. I'm really enjoying this experience and opportunity to try new things, meet, and be involved with the St Lawrence community, and hope this won't be my last time helping out here!



Congratulations to Toby Gamble who was awarded the King's Scout Award back in December. He received his award when the Scouts came to St Lawrence for their Christingle Service.

The King's Scout Award is the top achievement for Explorer Scouts. To get the award there are a variety of activities to complete. It's closely linked to the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. To start working towards the award participants must be aged 16 or older and they must complete the award before their 25th birthday. They must also be a member of Explorer Scouts for at least 18 months and be a member of Explorer Scouts at the time they complete the award.

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Toby is pictured with his parents Rebecca and Hugh Gamble who used to live in Gallows Hill. To gain the award Toby had to complete several challenges one of which was to learn a new skill for and show that he was committed to that for 12 months. He did this by being a bell ringer with us here at St Lawrence. He also had to complete other challenges involving other physical activity, serving in the community and taking on an expedition.

Well done Toby we are delighted to have been involved in a small way in helping you achieve your award.



Quarter Peal

Congratulations to a band of visiting bellringers who rang a quarter peal at St Lawrence on 3rd January. The team of six people included bellringers from Bushey, Watford and Redbourn. The quarter peal of 1250 changes was from a method called 'Beverley Spiced with one called Surfleet'. After they left St Lawrence they were on their way to St Paul's Langleybury.

Malawi Project

**OUR NEXT BIG FUND RAISING
EVENT IS:**

**A GOURMET EVENING with
MICHEL our CHEF
SATURDAY MARCH 16TH: 7PM**

This will be a big event for us as it will be our last fund raising push before our visit to Malawi. There will be an African theme to the evening with the opportunity to try some delicious African recipes made up for us by our expert chef, Michel. There will also be entertainment and table quizzes as part of this exciting evening. Please put the date in your diaries and book your place/table now. Price: £22.50 for an amazing four course meal.

Contact: Eileen and David Adams:
Eileen Adams 01923265228 or
eileen.sexton-adams@ntlworld
Church Office: 01923 261795 or
Wendy Meldrum:
wendymeldrum@gmail.com

OUR VISIT: We are making plans for our visit (2nd May – 18th May) and if you would like to help with some knitting or sewing please get in touch with Wendy Meldrum:
wendymeldrum@gmail.com

We are aiming to take out some alphabet and number panels for the hospital nurseries (as we did last time) as well as some knitted glove puppets to help the nursery teachers illustrate their story books. There are patterns for both available.

From the Curate

“Dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return.”

“Dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return.”

These are the words which will be spoken on Ash Wednesday this month, as believers here and around the world receive the mark of the cross in ashes on their foreheads. On Ash Wednesday we are faced with the harsh yet precious reality that we are created by the hand of God out of the elements of creation, and that each one of us will someday return to those elements. The ashes we allow to be inscribed on our foreheads are understood as symbols of our frail mortality and certain death, making Ash Wednesday is an odd day, made odder this year by its juxtaposition with the celebration of love that is Valentine’s Day.

Ash Wednesday, with its poignant reminder of our earthly origin and eventual return to dust presents an odd bedfellow with the somewhat saccharine sentimentality of Valentine’s Day. This unique calendar clash, occurring only three times this century, offers a profound tapestry of reflection on mortality, enduring love, and the transient nature of life.

The origins of Valentine’s Day trace back to the Early Church, with stories of at least three possible candidates for the Saint Valentine associated with 14th February, all of whom were martyred for their faith. From a man executed in Africa alongside other Christians, to a



Bishop in Italy, and a Christian priest who defied a Roman ban on marriage, these martyrs remind us of the life-threatening reality of faith throughout history, and still today in some parts of the world. While modern celebrations of Valentine’s Day tend to major on cards, chocolates, and flowers, these potential origin stories remind us of the sacrifice and dedication that love, in its truest form, can demand.

In considering the potential origin stories of Valentine’s Day, and the symbolism and words used for Ash Wednesday, I am reminded of some of my favourite paintings; 17th and 18th century Dutch still-life flower paintings. These masterpieces, with their meticulous attention to detail and vibrant colours, often depicted blooms in various stages of life – some in full bloom, others wilting. Much like the ashes of Ash Wednesday and the stories of Christian martyrs, these paintings serve as meditations on the cycles of life, urging us to reflect on the passage of time and the inevitability of change.

The symbolism within these paintings often functioned as a “memento mori,” a Latin phrase translating to “remember that you will die.” A sentiment we hear

during the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Death is generally something we try not to think about! Research studies indicate that when humans are reminded of death, we tend to seek out optimistic and cheerful thoughts as a counter and distraction.

Though, as we begin the penitential Lenten season with this stark reminder of our frailty, we cannot avoid acknowledging that we live on the other side of Easter, and therefore, our reflection on mortality is infused with the transformation power of the Resurrection. The ashes on our foreheads, signifying repentance, and humility, point not only to the dust from which we are formed, but also to the dust and ashes of a borrowed tomb; and to the promise of renewal and eternal life we find there. Our journey through Lent is not a solitary trek through a wilderness of self-denial and self-flagellation: it is a pilgrimage with our fellow pilgrims towards the dawn of Easter morning. The juxtaposition of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day invites us to hold the tension between mortality, repentance and hope, acknowledging that while our earthly existence is temporary, the love we share and the faith we profess are anchored in the victory of Christ over death come Easter morning.

The juxtaposition of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day encourages us to embrace the paradox of this moment. The very acknowledgement of our mortality serves as a poignant reminder that the love we share, and the faith we hold, are timeless and resilient. And that in the face of the fleeting nature of life, we find solace in the enduring beauty of love, the rich history of faith, and the

conquest of Jesus Christ over death and sin.

For dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return.

Helen

Join us 14th February, 8pm, at St Lawrence's for our Ash Wednesday service.

Going Deeper into God

'There are plenty of opportunities to grow in faith in the parish this month!

Every Thursday, between 12.30pm - 2pm, Helen continues to lead a group looking at 'Women in the New Testament'. Bring your lunch!

On Thursday evenings, from 8pm - 9.30pm, 'Friends and Faith' looks at Paul's Letter to the Romans.

And from Tuesday 20th, our Lent Course 'Be Still' looks at how to make the best of some daily time with God. 12.30pm - 2pm.

All meetings are in the Breakspear Room, and everyone's welcome to everything. Don't miss the chance to learn more and grow in your relationship with God. Any queries – ask Peter or Helen.

From the Churchyard

What do all these people buried in our churchyard all have in common?

Jeremiah How, Roberts Banks
Blackader, Samuel Maynard, William
Gossling, Martha Dewar, Lucy Gilbert,
Robert Carpenter, Charles Mutlow
Charles Reader, William Clark
Blundell, Ann Bowler.

Well firstly they are all buried in a particular area of our churchyard. They all died before 1884. That is not really a clue but just an interesting fact. They are all buried in what we commonly refer to as the Booksellers triangle. If you are not aware of where this is it is just as the end of the path that leads from the Breakspear Room out into the churchyard. You might like to pause a while and have a look at the inscriptions on the graves.



I have recently taken a couple of people around the churchyard and highlighted some points of interest. They were fascinated to know that people from the Booksellers Retreat, which is at the far end of the Abbots Road, where it joins Gallows Hill, have in the past been buried in our churchyard all in the same area.

An engraving c1850 of the Booksellers' Provident Retreat, by W H Prior

Courtesy of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies ref DP/X1021/11



The following information has been copied from an internet site entitled 'Alms Houses of London. <https://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/almshouses.html>

In 1837 a group of influential members of the book trade founded the Booksellers Provident Institution, a charity for the "mutual assistance and support of decayed booksellers and booksellers' assistants, being members of the trade, and of their widows".

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Continued from page 12.

In 1842 the leader of the group, John Dickinson, a paper manufacturer, donated a 3-acre plot of land near his country estate in Abbots Langley on which to build almshouses for poor elderly booksellers and their spouses.

Fund-raising began and, by 1845, there was enough money to begin building. The foundation stone for the almshouses was laid on 3rd September of that year by the Earl of Clarendon.

The Booksellers Retreat opened in 1846. The terrace of seven almshouses provided accommodation for retired members, or their widows, who were receiving annuities from the Booksellers Provident Institution.

In 1847 a gatehouse was built at the south of the site. The residents, however, could access the almshouses from Kings Langley station; as key holders, they could pass through a locked gate on the London platform to a pathway leading directly to the estate (the pathway is now a tunnel under the M25).

In 1962 the Booksellers Provident Institution merged with the National Book Trade Provident Society. It became the Book Trade Benevolent Society.

In 1965 the number of almshouses was increased. Eight single-bedroom bungalows were built along the driveway. Another eight were added in 1969. In 1978 another eight were built. Many of the bungalows bore plaques with the name of their sponsors, for example, publishers Longman, Chatto, Harrap and Collins.

In 1979 the original almshouse building was named Dickinson House. It was Grade II listed in 1985.

In 1987 eight of the bungalows were upgraded.

In 2006 a community centre was built following a £400,000 donation from the Foyle Foundation. It was named the Foyle Centre. The building also contains four apartments on the upper floor, named after T.S. Eliot, and supported by Old Possum's Practical Trust.

In 2009 four of the bungalows were rebuilt as townhouses, giving a total of 36 dwellings on the estate, including the seven original almshouses in Dickinson House. The charity was renamed the Book Trade Charity (BTBS).

In 2013 the Retreat had 37 residents.

In 2016 the charity merged with the Bookbinders Charitable Society, after which the Bookbinders Cottages in Whetstone came under the control of the Book Trade Charity (BTBS).

The Retreat continues to serve its original function. The site now contains 18 bungalows, 4 townhouses, 4 apartments and a gatehouse, as well as the original 7 almshouses.

If you would like to visit the Booksellers Retreat the next book sales is Friday 9th February 12.00pm - 5.00pm and Saturday 10th February 10.00am - 2.00pm

Carol Higgs

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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) |
| Bedmond Village Taskforce | bedmondvillagetaskforce@gmail.com |
| Bell Ringing | Phill Higgs (440676) |
| Bowling Club | off Langley Road (alongside the Scout HQ) |
| Breakspeare Community Pre-School | (by Tannerswood School) (274483) |
| Brownies, Rainbows and Guides | www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested |
| A/L Carers and Former Carers Support Group | Brenda Southorn 677139 |
| Churches Together | Brenda Southorn 677139 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | (08444 111444) - see advertisement on page 4 |
| Community Centre | (to hire 07530 266293) |
| Cricket Club | www.abbotscc.hitssports.com |
| 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) |
| Gardening Society | Jane Lay (447281) |
| Gilbert & Sullivan Society | Brenda Southorn (677139) |
| 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) |
| Karate Club (Junior) | (Scout HQ, Langley Road) Andrew Lewry (07774 161685) |
| Library | Open: Mon & Thu 1.00pm-6.00pm; Tue & Fri 9.30am-6.00pm Sat 9.30am - 1.00pm; Wed & Sun closed all day |
| Local History Society | Delva O'Reagan (267585) |
| Mothers' Union | Jill Matthews (262046) |
| Orchestra (ALO) | Penny Abbot (01442 873205) |
| Parent & Toddler Group | Community Centre; Tue, Wed & Friday 9.15-11.15 am |
| Parish Council and Halls | Council Office, Langley Road (265139) |
| Players (ALP) | Jean James (461549) |
| Red Cross | Jeanne Johnson (263598) |
| Royal British Legion | Secretary: Chris Driscoll (01923 675563) |
| St Lawrence Church Hall | Church Office (261795) |
| St Lawrence Church Flower Arrangers | Church Office (261795) |
| Scouts: Abbots Langley Scout Group | Alison Redmond gsl@abbotslanglescouts.org.uk |
| Langleybury Scout Group | 5thnwscouts@gmail.com |
| Youth FC | Tim Denyer (270563) |

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Kevin: sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk
Lea: studio@gpsprintworks.co.uk

Parish People

Emma arrived in Abbots Langley when 4 days old on a beautiful spring day with the trees in full blossom, having been born in Watford General Hospital. Her parents were both teachers, her father being born in Leicester and her mother in Watford. She has an older brother.

Emma attended Abbots Langley Primary School and then moved on to Parmiter's School. She took A Level music with voice as her main instrument and then went to Nene College, Northampton obtaining a Performing Arts BA degree. Nene College at that time was part of the University of Leicester. She returned to Abbots Langley and worked in an office for a year whilst applying to study for a post graduate diploma at one of the top drama schools, finally gaining a place at the prestigious Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Having graduated she worked as a professional singer/actor/dancer for five years, including performing at the Thursford Christmas Spectacular on three occasions and playing the lead role in Rotherham's Millenium event 'Walking on the Sun', alongside a couple of small tours. Since leaving the profession for marriage and family Emma still sings professionally a few times a year with the Gilbert & Sullivan concert group, The Wandering Minstrels, who tour the East of England giving concerts and raising money.

Emma is also well known on the local amateur theatre scene having performed with Abbots Langley Gilbert and



Sullivan Society, Cassio Productions, Radlett Musical Theatre Company and St Albans Musical Theatre Company, amongst others. She has won several awards for her performances. Favourite parts include Mama Rose – Gypsy, Anita – West Side Story, Emma – Tell Me On A Sunday, Nancy – Oliver, Sally Bowles – Cabaret, and many of the G&S mezzo roles. She also sings in St Lawrence Church Choir.

Emma worked for nearly 9 years as a Visitor Interactor at the Harry Potter Studio Tour before going into the education system as a teacher of dance. She also teaches at Stagecoach Theatre Arts. Two years ago, her husband Russell bought her a course to learn British Sign Language in which she had expressed an interest. This has led to Emma starting a new job at a school for deaf children in St Albans while she continues to gain her qualifications in BSL. Emma is hoping to get fluent enough to perhaps one day be able to sign for theatrical performances.

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Apart from her passion for the theatre Emma also enjoys comedy, films, a variety of music, time with family & friends and watching her children discover their own interests and talents as they grow (too fast!).

Emma is about to play the role of Carmen at the Watford Palace Theatre on February 8th and 10th. She will then co-direct HMS Pinafore at the Abbots Langley Festival in June and is already looking forward to playing the leading role of Desiree in A Little Night Music

(a part once played by one of her theatre & film idols, Judi Dench) next November. With a husband and two children also performing on stage life is very full. As the song says 'There's no business like show business'!!

By Brenda Southorn

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

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

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



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Friends of St Lawrence Christmas Wreath Festival

The weekend of 16 and 17th December saw a new fundraising event take place for the Friends of St Lawrence ... a Christmas Wreath Festival.

The idea of the festival was that schools, organisations and businesses in the village as well as individuals would create their own wreath that would then be displayed in Church over one weekend in the run up to Christmas. Our aim was to bring people into our beautiful and ancient village church to see and enjoy the wonderful wreath creations from all the various organisations in our community. There were wreaths on display of all shapes and sizes. Some were made from greenery while others were made of fabric, paper and recycled materials and some even lit up and flashed!

As this was the first time such a Festival has taken place in the village, we were concerned as to the response we might get. We needn't have worried ... the idea of a Christmas Wreath Festival really caught people's imagination! Three of the local primary schools entered for the children's category along with the Rainbows, Cubs and several other children's organisations. There were over 15 village and church organisations represented as well as commercial participants and individuals. In all we had 35 wreaths on display; it was an amazing sight and the Church looked absolutely beautiful.

The Festival turned out to be a huge success. People dropped in all weekend to see the wreaths. It was free entry but

donations were welcome and coffee and mince pies were served throughout the weekend. As people wandered round the church looking at the stunning displays, they were asked to write down their favourite wreath, which turned out to be ... the Abbots Langley Library entry!



Wreath entry from Abbots Langley Library.

It was a wonderful occasion thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part and by all who came to see the displays. We raised an amazing £778 all of which will go towards the maintenance and up keep of our ancient village church which lies at the heart of our community. Thank you, to you all for your support and generosity.

Why aren't people getting married?



St Lawrence Church
Sunday 4th February
5.00pm.

All are welcome

Refreshments will be provided

Breathing Space

Friends of St Lawrence
are delighted to present ...
An Evening at La Banq



MONDAY 19TH
FEBRUARY
7PM FOR 7.30PM

Come and join us for an evening at
La Banq: High Street, Abbots Langley, WD5 0AR

Cost: £20pp for two courses (drinks not included).

All proceeds will be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the
ancient Church building of St Lawrence which lies at the heart of
our community of Abbots Langley

For tickets please contact

wendymeldrum@gmail.com or Church Office on 01923 261795

Deadline for all content for March Outlook is Wednesday 21st February