

# THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

21st January 2024

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



## TODAY

- 8.00am** Eucharist at  
St Lawrence Church
- President:** Revd. Peter Waddell  
**Preacher:** Revd. Helen Neville
- Reader:** Tom Betteridge
- 9.30am** Eucharist at St Lawrence  
Church
- President:** Revd. Peter Waddell  
**Preacher:** Revd. Helen Neville
- Reader:** Bill Sanderson
- Intercessions:** Roland Maxted
- 11.30am** Eucharist at The Church of  
the Ascension
- President:** Revd. Peter Waddell  
**Preacher:** Revd. Helen Neville
- Reader:** Janette Noonan
- Readings:**  
(Genesis 14:17-20) (P.11)  
Revelation 19:6-10 (P. 255)  
(Psalm 128) (P.515)  
John 2:1-11 (P.89)
- Hymns:**  
558: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
411: Dear Lord and Father  
570: Sing to the Lord a joyful song  
279: And now, O Father  
267: Thou, whose almighty word
- 5.00pm:** Taizé Service

## 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](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:

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son 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:

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

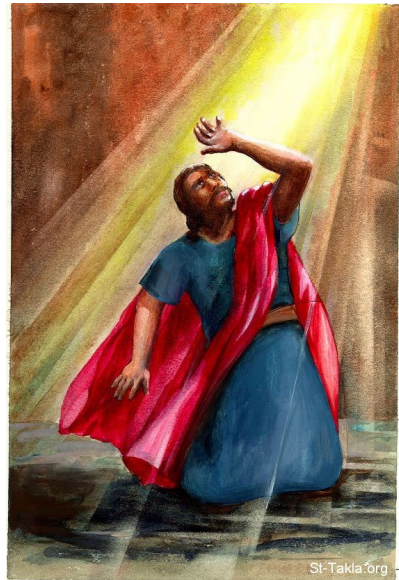
### ‘FOOD FOR THOUGHT’

think about an electric light burning. The electric current *causes* the light to shine, but that doesn't mean that the electric power is something that was around only when you put the switch on, so that the light itself is a rather distant result. On the contrary, the light is shining here and now because the electric current is flowing here and now. In the same way, it is the "current" of divine activity that is here and now making us real.... within every circumstance, every object, every person, God's action is going on, a sort of white heat at the centre of everything. It means each one of us is in a relationship with God before we've ever thought about it. It means that every object or person we encounter is in a relationship with God before they're in a relationship of any kind with us. And if that doesn't make us approach the world and other people with reverence and amazement, I don't know what will.' (Rowan Williams, *Tokens of Trust*, p.35)

## The Conversion of Paul

### 25 January

The conversion of the anti-Christian zealot, Saul, to the apostle of Christ, Paul, is clearly related in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, but it has to be remembered that this was a beginning: Saul took some time to become Paul and some time to begin to understand that his call to preach -- to Jew and to Gentile -- the saving power of Jesus, the Son of God, was something that was a whole life's journey for him. Paul says in his Letter to the Church in Galatia, "God set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace ... Three years after (the Damascus Road conversion), I went up to Jerusalem." The preparation for this moment of his conversion was his whole life. This feast has been celebrated in the Church since the sixth century but became universal in the twelfth century.



## FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For unity among all Christian people
- For all the churches in Abbots Langley
- For the Nameless youth group, and that more young people might come to faith
- For those who will come to the new Spark service
- For those suffering from the cold.
- For Soul Survivor, Watford as Jon Stevens is licensed as new Lead Pastor

## FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Chris Ballard; Martin Greeves; Ray Wicks; Jo;

## FOR THE DEPARTED

Karin Cutting; James Dodds; Jan Sanders; Russell Smith;

## NEXT SUNDAY

**28th January 2024**

### The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

- 8.00am Eucharist St. Lawrence Church  
9.30am Eucharist St Lawrence Church  
11.30am Eucharist The Church of the Ascension  
3.30pm The Spark Service St Lawrence

## READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Deuteronomy 18: 15 - 20 (P. 181)  
Revelation 12: 1 - 5a (P. 250)  
Mark 1: 21 - 28 (P. 33)

## AVAILABILITY

Peter is off on Saturday and Helen is off on Wednesday.

## THE COMING WEEK

### **Monday - Saturday, 9.15am**

Morning Prayer

*In the Corpus Christi Chapel*

### **Monday 22nd January**

10.00am Coffee Morning

*Breakspear Room*

11.00am Burial of Ashes Barrie Mayne

*Garden of Remembrance*

1.45pm Tiny Tots

*Breakspear Room*

7.30pm Bell ringing practice

*St Lawrence Church*

### **Tuesday 23rd January**

8.00pm Finance Committee Meeting

*Breakspear Room*

### **Wednesday 24th January**

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 25th January**

12.30pm Women of the New Testament

*Breakspear Room*

2.30pm Burial of Ashes Patricia Unwin

*Garden of Remembrance*

8.00pm Friends and Faith Group

*Breakspear Room*

### **Friday 26th January**

10.00am Bedmond Bells Craft and Chat

*The Church of the Ascension*

1.20pm Funeral of James Dodds

*West Herts Crematorium*

2.00pm Craft and Conversation

*Breakspear Room*

### **Saturday 27th January**

6.30pm Malawi Sing-A-Long

*St Lawrence Church Hall*

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 date has changed for the Sunday Lunch in January**, it will now be held on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> at 13.00pm** instead of the normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month .

**A new service starting on 28th January!** The Spark @ St Lawrence's. This service is for people of all ages, there will be activities for children and a space for adults to explore faith and a chance to meet new people. Held on the last Sunday of each month, starting at 3.30pm for drinks and snacks, with the service starting at 4.00pm. All are very welcome to attend.

**Please book your place for our ever popular Sing a Long in aid of the Malawi Project. Saturday 27th January, 6.30pm.** This year it will be to the Sound of Music and promises to be a wonderful evening. There will be light refreshments available. It will be BYO drinks and the cost is £6.50 per adult and £3.50 per child. So, dust off those vocal chords and don the Lederhosen for a fun evening's entertainment!! Contact: [Wendymeldrum@gmail.com](mailto:Wendymeldrum@gmail.com) or Church Office on 01923 261795

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

**CTAL Choral Evensong for Candlemas**, Sunday 4th February, 3.00pm in 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. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) **18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January.**

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. **Starting this Thursday at 8pm in the Breakspear Room**, and everyone is very welcome!

## CONTACT NUMBERS

**Vicar:**

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**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.***