

# THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

14th December 2025

THE THIRD 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  
Revd Helen Neville

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

**President & Preacher:** Revd Peter Waddell

**Reader:** Barbara Johnson

### Readings:

Isaiah 35: 1 - 10 (P. 673)  
(James 5: 7 - 10) (P. 228)  
Matthew 11: 2 - 11 (P. 10)

### Hymns at Bedmond:

27: Hark the glad sound!  
24: Come, thou long-expected Jesus  
444: God is working his purpose out  
538: O Jesus I have promised

**6.30pm** Christmas Carols at  
The Church of the  
Ascension, Bedmond

## 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-



**Refreshments will  
be served in the  
hall after the  
9.30am service**



[www.abbotslangley.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangley.org.uk)

## THE PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

### COLLECT:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### POST COMMUNION:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

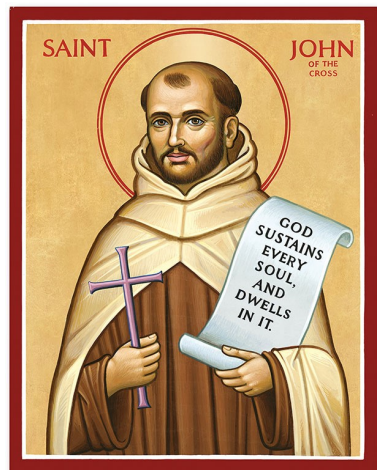
### FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

'Strengthen the weak hands, make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear". There has always been much to fear, and that seems especially the case today. Why should we *not* fear, knowing all that we do, with Russia menacing, with the superflu, with economic gloom? The Bible is not blind to all of this: Jesus famously described such troubles as 'but the birth pangs' of his new world. Yet the whole thing, the Gospel says, ends in perfect justice and joy - with the emphasis on the joy. On the far side of the Cross, there is the Resurrection. Believing that is true, and so living fearlessly, is what Christianity is all about.

## John of the Cross

### 14 December

Born to an impoverished noble family near Avila in Spain in 1542, Juan de Yepes was brought up by his widowed mother and went to a charity school. He worked as a nurse and received further education from the Jesuits before entering the Carmelite order when he was twenty-one. Having distinguished himself at Salamanca university, he was ordained in 1567 and met Teresa of Avila soon afterwards. Small of stature, he made a great impression on her and she persuaded him to help with her reform of the Carmelite order. His labours brought him into conflict with the religious authorities, and he was even imprisoned for a period, yet these experiences prompted some of his finest poetry and mystical writing. In particular, he described the 'dark night' of the soul as it is purified in its approach towards God. After ten years as superior to several different houses, he again fell out of favour and was banished to Andalusia in southern Spain, where he died after a severe illness on this day in 1591.



## FOR OUR PRAYERS

- For the parish of St. Luke's
- For all whom Christmas is hard
- For Abbots Langley School
- For our choirs

### FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Chris Ballard; Christopher Seabrook; Laya Watters; Sandra Clarke; Wendy Ball; Julie Marsden; Bernard Eamer; Libby Davis; Mike White, Brenda Redfearn

### FOR THE DEPARTED

Rosemary Johnson; Daphne Graves; Richard Constable

## NEXT SUNDAY

**21st December 2025**

### The Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am Eucharist at St Lawrence Church
- 9.30am Eucharist at St Lawrence Church
- 11.30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension, Bedmond
- 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carol Service at St Lawrence Church

## READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 7: 10 - 16 (P. 646)  
Romans 1: 1 - 7 (P. 147)  
Matthew 1: 18 - end (P. 1)

## AVAILABILITY

Peter is off on Monday.  
Helen is off on Friday

## THE COMING WEEK

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

### Monday 15th December

10.00am Coffee Morning  
*Breakspeare Room*

7.30pm Bell Ringing Practice  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Tuesday 16th December

10.30am Tiny Tots  
*Breakspeare Room*

### Wednesday 17th December

12.00pm Eucharist  
*Corpus Christi Chapel*

2.00pm Funeral of  
Rosemary Johnson  
*West Herts Crematorium*

6.30pm Junior Choir rehearsal  
*St Lawrence Church*

8.00pm Choir Rehearsal  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Thursday 18th December

*Church Office is closed*

5.30pm Carols Round the Tree  
*The Tin Church*

### Friday 19th December

2.00pm Craft and Conversation  
*Breakspeare Room*

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: [churchwarden2@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:churchwarden2@abbotslangley.org.uk)

**Christmas Sunday lunch is TODAY** at 1pm in the church hall.

**Nine Lessons and Carols - 21st December at 6.30pm in St Lawrence Church.** All are warmly welcome at this wonderful service, where you can reflect on the readings and enjoy the beautiful music of the choir. We hope you'll be able to attend. Mulled wine and mince pies available after the service.

**The Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve in St Lawrence Church will be held at 1.30pm (with Makaton signing), 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm and 6pm.** Come and see the nativity brought to life at this fantastic service. You may even get to meet a real donkey! All are warmly welcome.

**Midnight Mass Services will be held at both St Lawrence Church and The Church of the Ascension, Bedmond at 11.45pm.** Come and share the peace and beauty of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. All are warmly welcome.

**Celebrate Christmas morning with services** at 8:00am and 9:30am at St Lawrence Church, and at 11:30am at The Church of the Ascension, Bedmond. All are warmly invited. Festive Christmas jumpers are welcome!

**The items most needed by the Foodbank are:** Cereals, milk (long life), fruit juice (long life), tinned fruit, tinned meat, tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, rice pudding, custard, jam, tea / coffee, mashed potato, pasta, pasta sauces, biscuits / snack bars. **Please make sure that all donations are unopened and are within the use by date. Items can be left at the collection point at the back of church, or in the dedicated basket at Sweeneys. Thank you.**

**On Sunday 28th December, there will be only one service in the parish - the 9.30am Eucharist at St Lawrence Church.**

## CONTACT DETAILS

**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)

**Churchwardens:** Tom Betteridge and Richard Baldwin ([churchwardens@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@abbotslangley.org.uk))

**Director of Music:** Marianne Chapman  
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)

Like us on



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