

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

16th December 2018

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



TODAY

8.00 am Holy Communion in St Lawrence
President & Preacher: The Revd Peter Waddell
Reader: Sue Tomson

**9.30 am Parish Communion with
Seekers and Creche** in St Lawrence
President: The Revd Peter Waddell
Preacher: The Revd Brian Hibberd
Hymns: 401 - 198 - 309 - 428 - 53 - 78
Readers: Richard Baldwin and Claire Higgs
Intercessor: Liz Burns

11.15 am Holy Communion at Bedmond
President & Preacher: The Revd Brian Hibberd
Hymns: 401 - 198 - 309 - 78
Reader: Wendy Ball

12.30 pm Sunday Lunch Club Christmas Lunch

6.30 pm Evening Prayer in St Lawrence
Leader: The Revd Peter Waddell

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Morning Prayer in St Lawrence

9.30 am Monday to Friday

Evening Prayer in St Lawrence

5.15 pm Monday to Friday

Holy Communion in St Lawrence

10.15 am Wednesday

Quiet Reflection in St Lawrence

11.00 am Wednesday

Early Prayer in St Lawrence

8.15 am Thursday

WELCOME

Welcome to everyone at our worship today especially to visitors and newcomers - please introduce yourself if you are new or a visitor.

If you usually receive **Communion** in your own church, please do so here. If not, you are welcome to come to the altar rail for a **Blessing**, and if you carry a book with you the priest will know not to offer you the bread and wine.

The 9.30 am service is **recorded live** (audio only) on 'www.thesundayervice.org' each week. No members of the congregation will be seen on camera.



Please tell a sidesperson before the service if you would like a **gluten-free wafer**.

A **T-loop** is provided for hearing aid users.



For our younger members in St Lawrence:



Seekers for those aged 3 to 10 years (start in church), not 2nd Sunday each month;

Creche in the Breakspear Room;
Quiet Corner in church

Please join us for **coffee, tea or juice and biscuits** in the church hall after the 9.30 am service.



*A **collection** is taken at each main service. If you are a UK tax payer, please complete a gift aid envelope.*

This money is fundamental to the life of the church: its ministry, mission and charitable giving.

As we receive no income from the Government or any other external body, we are reliant on the generosity of the community and our fundraising endeavours to ensure that the important work of the parish continues.

Many regular members of the congregation give by direct debit and so put nothing in the bag as it passes by.

*If you would like to set up a regular direct debit, please ask for a **Parish Giving Scheme** pack.*

THE PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

Bibles are available in the book rack by the door where you entered.

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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3.14-end Bible page 891

Zephaniah lived at a time when foreign influence was strong in religion and at the royal court, and hence there was much apostasy from Yahweh, practical scepticism and social corruption. The first part of his book describes the coming day of judgement on the people of Israel, but the last part, today's reading, describes the final exaltation of Israel when she shall be free of her oppressors.

SECOND READING Philippians 4.4-7 Bible page 196

Although the Philippians had much to endure, Paul encourages them to always rejoice in the Lord, to entrust all their concerns to him and by so doing they will experience his peace and his confidence that all will be well. This was a message of hope to a church beleaguered by persecution.

GOSPEL

Luke 3.7-18 Bible page 57

John the Baptist came with an uncompromising message for the people of Israel. He was not concerned with popularity or winning hearts and minds, but with the spiritual welfare of the people. He did not pull his punches, but let them know in no uncertain terms that they were heading for the unquenchable fire if they did not start behaving morally and stop relying on their inheritance from Abraham to save them.

POST COMMUNION

PRAYER: 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. **Amen.**

ANTHEM at 9.30 am -

'O Thou the Central Orb' - Charles Wood;
words by H.R. Bramley

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,
Pure beam of the most high,
Eternal light of this our wintry world,
Thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith,
Hope soars above, above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,
As stars about thy throne, set in the height
of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight
gives measur'd grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,
Our nature all shall feel eternal day,
In fellowship with Thee,
Transforming day to souls while ere unclean,
Now pure within, now pure within. Amen.

FOR OUR PRAYERS



GIVE THANKS FOR

- » the courage of those who speak out against wrong doing
- » the inexhaustible mercy of God, who forgives all who truly repent

PRAY FOR

- » a sense of urgency to change things that are wrong in our lives and in society
- » confidence and trust in the Lord to sustain us in difficult times
- » justice and integrity in government and the nation's institutions
- » those who have forgotten their responsibilities to their neighbours
- » for Wendy and Charles Goble who had their marriage blessed in St Lawrence yesterday
- » for those who live in Trowley Rise, Tylersfield, Wadham Road
- » for those who worship at St Saviour's RC Church and for Fr Richard and Fr Christopher, the Parish Priests

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

- » Brian McIntosh : Brian Higgs : Stephen : Sandra Smalley : Betty Harris : Ben : Sean Brosnan : Vanessa

RIP

- » Gladys Scott

AVAILABILITY

Peter's day off is Thursday

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Micah 5.2-5a; Psalm 80.1-8;
Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-55

THE COMING WEEK

MONDAY 17th

- 10.30 am Tanners Wood School in St Lawrence
- 2.15 pm Tiny Tots in the Breakspear Room
- 8.00 pm Ringing practice in St Lawrence

TUESDAY 18th

- 10.15 am Tuesday Coffee in Breakspear Rm
- 7.00 pm Youth Club meets in the church hall

WEDNESDAY 19th

- 10.15 am Holy Communion in St Lawrence
- 11.00 am Quiet Reflection in St Lawrence
- 12.00 noon Home Communion at Abbeyfield
- 7.45 pm Choir practice in St Lawrence

THURSDAY 20th

- 6.00 pm Carols and Lighting the Christmas Tree at Bedmond

FRIDAY 21st

- 10.00 am Craft Morning in the Tin Church
- 10.00 am AHAL Coffee in the Henderson Hub, Abbots Langley High Street
- 2.00 pm Craft & Conversation in the B'spear Rm
- 6.15 pm Youth Choir in the Breakspear Rm

SATURDAY 22nd

- 8.00 pm Christmas Focus in St Lawrence

NEXT SUNDAY

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 23rd December 2018

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** in St Lawrence
President & Preacher: The Revd Peter Waddell
- 9.30 am Parish Communion with Seekers & Creche** in St Lawrence
President & Preacher: The Revd Peter Waddell
- 11.15 am Holy Communion**
in the Tin Church, Bedmond
President & Preacher: The Revd Peter Waddell
- 4.00 pm Nine Lessons & Carols** in
The Tin Church, Bedmond
- 6.30 pm Nine Lessons & Carols**
in St Lawrence

NOTICES

► **PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD** available at the back of St Lawrence for those who would like to send Christmas greetings to their friends for a donation to Christian Aid.

► **VILLAGE CALENDARS** on sale during coffee today as well as **Bedmond Christmas Cards, Recipe Books and St Lawrence Christmas Cards** - or buy them in the church office during the week.

► Bedmond Village Task Force **CAROLS ROUND THE TREE** on Thursday 20th December. Meet 6.00 pm at Bedmond Village Hall for the torchlight procession to the Tin Church to gather around the tree at 6.30 pm. Followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

► If you can help with arranging **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** in St Lawrence on the morning of Saturday 22nd December please sign the list.

► **A CHRISTMAS FOCUS** (an hour of music, readings and reflections) on Saturday 22nd December at 8.00 pm - all welcome.

► **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** in both churches next Sunday (23rd): Bedmond at 4.00 pm; St Lawrence at 6.30 pm - both followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

► **MINCE PIES** required for Nine Lessons and Carols on Saturday 23rd December - please sign the list if you can provide some.

► Jill Waghorn would like help at the **CANDLELIGHT SERVICES** on Christmas Eve to 'dress' those taking part. Please speak to Jill if you can help.

► **A HEART FOR ABBOTS LANGLEY**, the coffee shop in the Henderson Hub on a Friday morning 10.00 am to 12.00 noon each week, is needing more helpers. If you can help on a rota basis, please contact Sue Gotts on 445347.

► **OUTLOOK** (Church magazine) is available for December - please take a copy (40p). We hope you will continue your subscription (£4.80) into 2019 - please pay your deliverer or via the office.

► **ALBAN LIFE** - a new diocesan magazine is available at the back of both churches - free.

ROTAS - please think about what help you can offer; the more helpers the fewer times we need to do it:

Sunday Coffee (preparing, serving and washing up) - four times a year

Collecting Peggy from Hewlitt - approx. seven times a year

Sunday Lunches (cooking and/or serving) - six times a year

Intercessions (including writing them) - approx. six times a year

Tuesday Coffee (serving and clearing away) - every 5/6 weeks

... if you would like to read a lesson;

act as sidesperson/welcomer (monthly), serve at the altar or arrange flowers

- whatever you can offer, please speak to Pam who will pass you on to the right person.

Not a rota - just a list! - if you can **offer lifts** to the 9.30 am services at St Lawrence, please let the office know - it won't tie you to every week but just so we know who we can call on - thank you.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Vicar: The Revd Dr Peter Waddell
01923 263013

Email: vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk

Assistant Priest: The Revd Angela Milton
01923 519453

Assistant Priest: The Revd Guy Buckler
via the Church Office

Assistant Priest: The Revd Brian Hibberd
via the Church Office

Reader: Mrs Sally Sanderson
01923 265963

Church Office: 01923 261795

Open: 9.30 am to 1.00 pm daily

Email: adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk

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