

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

30th December 2018

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



TODAY

8.00 am Holy Communion in St Lawrence
President & Preacher:

The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John

Reader: Mike Jefford

**9.30 am Parish Communion with
Seekers and Creche** in St Lawrence
President & Preacher:

The Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John

Hymns: 526 - 395 - 226 - 439 - 542 - 253

11.15 am Holy Communion at Bedmond

President & Preacher: The Revd Jos Perris

Hymns: 526 - 395 - 226 - 253

Reader: Martin Tanner

6.30 pm Evening Prayer in St Lawrence

Leader: Sally Sanderson

SERVICES THIS WEEK

NO midweek Communion this week

Morning Prayer said in St Lawrence

9.30 am Wednesday to Friday

Evening Prayer said in St Lawrence

5.15 pm Wednesday to Friday

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: 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. Amen.

FIRST READING

I Samuel 2.18-20,26

Bible page 254

Hannah had prayed for a son and promised God that if her request was granted, she would give her son back to the Lord and dedicate him to the Lord's service. And so it was. It was a normal pattern to make an annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. This nourished people's faith and unity. This passage has obvious resonances with the gospel which tells of a similar occasion with Jesus and his parents.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3.12-17

Bible page 199

The new nature which a person puts on like clothing when he or she becomes a committed Christian shows itself in its concern for other people. 'Peace' in verse 15 is more than an absence of war or a row. It means being in harmony, or at one, with God as well as with people.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.41-end

Bible page 57

It was the custom of devout Jews (see the OT passage) to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem at Passover time. Jesus' parents were introducing him to the practices of their religion. The story contrasts the relationship of Jesus to God the Father with his relationship to his earthly parents. He recognised a commitment to them and to God.

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. Amen.

ANTHEM at 9.30 am:

'New Year Carol'

Benjamin Britten

THE NEW YEAR

May God make the New Year a happy one:
not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
but by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
not by making your path easy,
but by making you sturdy to travel any path;
not by taking hardships from you,
but by taking fear from your heart;
not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
but by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
not by making your life always pleasant,
but by showing you when people
and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious
to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.

FOR OUR PRAYERS



GIVE THANKS FOR

- » the grace and humility of God
- » the example of Mary and Joseph in the way they brought up Jesus
- » the love we have received from our families
- » all that has been good in 2018

PRAY FOR

- » courage for ourselves to witness to the truth and reality of the gospel
- » the peace and stability of the world as we begin a new year
- » all those who came to worship during this past week, that they may have heard the message of Christmas and live their lives full of love, hope, joy and peace
- » for those who live in Woodlands Road, Woodside Road, Wycliffe Court
- » for the work of the YMCA Chaplaincy in Leavesden

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

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

AVAILABILITY

Peter will be back on Friday 4th January

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-15;
Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

THE COMING WEEK

Monday 31st

New Year ringing

Tuesday 1st January

11.00-12.00 only Tuesday Coffee with
New Year drinks in the
Breakspear Room

Wednesday 2nd

11.00 am Quiet Reflection
in the Corpus Christi Chapel
No Midweek Communion this week

Friday 4th

10.00 am Craft Morning in the Tin Church
10.00 am HAL Coffee in the Henderson Hub
Abbots Langley High Street
2.00 pm Craft & Conversation in the
Breakspear Room

Saturday 5th

9.30 am Churchyard Working Party
at St Lawrence

NEXT SUNDAY

THE EPIPHANY 6th January 2019

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
12.30 pm Sunday Lunch Club in the church hall

12.45 pm Christening of Lola Smith

**4.00 pm Churches Together
Epiphany Carol Service**
in St Saviour's RC Church

6.00 pm Youth Meeting
in the Breakspear Room

6.30 pm Evening Prayer in St Lawrence
Leader: Sally Sanderson

NOTICES

► **CHURCHES TOGETHER EPIPHANY CAROLS** next Sunday, 6th January at 4.00 pm in St Saviour's RC Church in The Crescent - all welcome.

► There will not be a **MIDWEEK COMMUNION** this week and from Wednesday 9th January the service will be at 12.00 noon each week followed by soup and a roll in the Breakspear Room.

► The next **MESSY CHURCH** is on Wednesday 9th January from 3.30 pm in the Methodist Church and hall. Offers of help to Wendy Meldrum.

► **SEEKERS PARTY** for children aged 3 to 10 years (accompanied if younger) on Saturday 12th January from 3.00 to 4.30 pm - tea and entertainment in the church hall. For details or to book a place, please contact the office or speak to Jane McHugh.

► **VILLAGE CALENDARS** on sale during coffee today - or buy them in the church office during the week or at *Over the Moon*.

► **A HEART FOR ABBOTS LANGLEY** (AHAL), the coffee shop in the Henderson Hub on a Friday morning from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon each week, is in need of more helpers. If you can help on a rota basis (about every four or five weeks), please contact Sue Gotts on 445347.

► **OUTLOOK** (Church magazine) is available for January - 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, please take a copy.

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.

