

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

27th December 2020

JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST



TODAY

9.30 am Eucharist at St Lawrence
President & Preacher: The Revd Guy Buckler
Reader: TBC
Readings: Exodus 33.7-11a,
1 John 1
John 21.19b-end

Intercessions: Marcus Coultrup

Regular Service Timetable January 2021

Sunday

8am Eucharist at St. Lawrence
9.30am Eucharist at St. Lawrence
11.15am Eucharist at the
Church of the Ascension
6.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP)

Wednesday

11.15am Quiet Prayer
12.00 noon Eucharist

Monday to Saturday

9.15am Morning Prayer

You need to let the Church Office know every week which service you would like to attend for track and trace purposes.

This is for ALL services.

Tel: 01923 261795

adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk

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 very welcome to receive a blessing.

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



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



The 9.30am service can be viewed via our YouTube platform ('thesundayservice.org') or on our Facebook page – you don't have to be a member of Facebook to do this, just search for 'St. Lawrence Abbots Langley Facebook' on any search engine.

Please note that unless you are exempt, face masks remain mandatory.



Unfortunately due to Government Guidelines, there'll be no congregational singing. For the moment, communion continues using the bread only.

For our younger members in St Lawrence: **Seekers** (aged 5-10) has started in the church hall.

If medical reasons prevent you from attending church, and you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact the parish office.

As always you can still contact us via FB, or the Church Office on 01923 261795 or email: adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk.

THE PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

COLLECT:

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

READINGS:

Isa. 61. 10-62.3

Gal. 4.47

John 21. 19b-end

BIBLE NOTES:

A theme we find running through today's readings is that of intimacy. In the Old Testament reading we learn that Moses is able to speak with God "face to face, as one speaks to a friend". Such intimacy allowed Moses to see the glory of the Lord revealed in his mercy, his grace, and his steadfast love for his people. In the Gospel we meet John, the disciple whom Jesus loved and whose intimacy with Jesus allowed him to grasp the truth about the Word made flesh – the truth to which he testifies in his Gospel. Finally, in the first letter of John we read about our own call to fellowship with the Father and with his Son and with one another – a call to strive for that intimacy which will bring us life in all its fullness.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that the Word made flesh proclaimed by your apostle John may, by the celebration of these holy mysteries, ever abide and live within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Please feel free to light a candle and pray but do observe the correct social distancing rules. Be aware of social distancing not only next to you, but behind you and in front of you.

Please could we ask that you use the hand sanitizer provided and do not touch anything you don't need to.

Please do not enter any of the areas which are blocked as these are not cleaned regularly.

We will be open from 09.30 to 16.30 Monday to Saturday and 11.00 to 16.30 on a Sunday.

WEARING OF FACE MASKS

The wearing of face masks in Church is mandatory. There are of course those who are exempt.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for:

- » Key workers who are on the frontline helping fight against Coronavirus and all those affected by it.
- » better sharing of the world's resources
- » all those who are struggling to make ends meet
- » all people to know God's blessing and eternal love
- » those who live in Abbey Drive, Abbeyfield, Abbots Langley High Street
- » those who worship at the Baptist Church
- » those facing great economic uncertainty
- » For all those facing a tough start to 2021

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

Betty Harris; Henry Bremer; Emma; Charlie Crosby; James Mote; Sean Brosnan; Alison; Errol; Holly Jefford; Stephen Lakey; Patricia Lakey; Hugo; Erlend; Peter Parmenter; Kathy Bunting; Hannah; Josh; Olivia

THE DEPARTED

Thelma; Barry Gill; Eli Pike

NEXT SUNDAY

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 3rd January 2021

8.00 am Eucharist at St Lawrence
President & Preachers: Revd Peter Waddell

9.30 am Eucharist at St Lawrence
President: Revd Peter Waddell
Preacher: Revd. Brian Hibberd

11.15am Eucharist at Bedmond, Tin Church
President & Preacher: Revd Brian Hibberd

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Jer. 31.7-14
Eph. 1 3-14
John. 1. (1-9) 10-18

THE COMING WEEK

Morning Prayer

Morning prayer will be live streamed daily at 9.15am.



Wednesday 6th January

11.15am Quiet Prayer
12 noon Eucharist
8pm Choir Practice



AVAILABILITY

Peter's day off is Thursday
Maxine's day off is Friday

Notices...

The Friends of St Lawrence next event will be a Virtual Bingo Evening to be held on Saturday January 23rd. So, put the date in your diaries, it will be great fun and we will give out more details nearer the day. Contact Wendy Meldrum on wendymeldrum@gmail.com

or 07710 688633 or the Church Office on 01923 261795

Thank you to all those who have done the arrangements and contributed to the costs in memory of loved ones this year.

Services in Tier 4

As we find ourselves in Tier 4, one important difference from previous lockdowns is that, in Tier 4, public worship is allowed to continue. This, it seems, is because the Government recognises both the huge efforts that have gone into making places of worship safe, and the great importance many people attach to public worship. Accordingly, both State and Church have left it to individual parishes to make the decision about what is right in their context.

Abbots Langley PCC has decided that both our churches, St. Lawrence and the Church of the Ascension, will remain open for public worship, offering our normal range of services on Sunday and throughout the week. Of course, these remain subject to the 'normal' 2020 restrictions: you have to book in with the parish office, keep social distance, wear a mask, not sing, not have wine at communion, not stay for chat and coffee afterwards.... it's church, but not as anyone likes it.

In normal times, vicars say that everybody should come to church all the time. These are not normal times: so if you are especially vul-

nerable to this virus for any reason, you should think very carefully about whether it is actually wise for you to attend. Maybe it is - and perhaps more likely, maybe it is not. Only you can make that decision, but nobody should feel the slightest twinge of guilt about staying away from church services at the moment. If in doubt, don't come.

Remember that the 9.30 service is livestreamed each week on The Sunday Service.Org and on Facebook Live (you don't have to be a member of Facebook to view this), and public worship from elsewhere in the country is also available on BBC radio every day. Maxine and I are happy to bring communion to you at home (whilst observing very strict Covid-safety), and of course are very happy to ring and chat – just be in touch with the parish office for anything you need.

We'll keep the decision to remain open under careful review each week, and of course will always be alert to changes in the guidance from the Government and the Diocese.

CONTACT NUMBERS

Vicar:

The Revd Dr Peter Waddell 01923 263013

Email: vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk

Curate:

The Revd Maxine Howarth

Email: curate@abbotslangley.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

The Revd Angela Milton

via the Church Office

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

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jan Taylor - 01923 262565

Church Office Opening Times:

10.00 am to 12.30 pm Mon-Fri - 01923 261795

Email: adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk

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

Like us on



StLawrenceChurchAbbotsLangley and TheTinChurchBedmond