

THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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

11th March 2018

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mothers' Sunday



TODAY

8.00 am Holy Communion

President & Preacher: The Revd Angela Milton
Reader: Mike Jefford

9.30 am Second Sunday Communion Service

President & Preacher: The Revd Peter Waddell
Hymns: 284 - Beautiful Saviour - 137 - O the deep, deep love of Jesus - 454 - 354

11.00 am Holy Communion for

Mothers' Sunday at Bedmond

President & Preacher: The Revd Angela Milton
Hymns: 426 - 55 - 360 - 321

12.30 pm Lent Lunch in the church hall

6.30 pm Evening Prayer

Leader: The Revd Peter Waddell

7.30 pm Lent Course - 'The Lord's Prayer'
in the Breakspear Room

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 (Corpus Christi Chapel)

Early Prayer for the local community

8.15 am Thursday (St Lawrence)

WELCOME

Welcome to everyone at our worship today especially to visitors and newcomers, and those who have come to hear their Banns of Marriage read - please introduce yourself if you are new or a visitor.

If you have been confirmed or 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.



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 at 9.30 am:

Crèche (0-3 years)

in the Breakspear Room
with suitable toys;

Seekers (3-10 years)

in the church hall,

(except Second Sundays

when everyone in church together);

(the Church Hall is at the end of the car park)

Quiet Children's Corner in Church



If you have come to the service at 9.30 am, please stay for refreshments in the hall after the service.



A **collection** is taken at each main service. If you are a UK tax payer, please use 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.

If you would prefer to set up a regular direct debit, please pick up a **Parish Giving Scheme** pack.

THE PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

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

COLLECT: Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Numbers 21.4-9

Bible page 145

An ancient story. The Israelites had been freed by God from slavery in Egypt and were being led by Moses. They grumbled because the going was difficult. God punished them. They said they were sorry. Moses interceded for them to God. God told him how snake bites (their punishment) could be cured. Lifting the snake on a pole for healing was interpreted by the early church as a prophecy of the lifting up of Christ on the cross for the healing of the world.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2.1-10

Bible page 189

No ancient story about poisonous snakes here, but there is a clear link. It is really a summary of Paul's gospel. God has brought us into the sphere of his forgiveness and love. He has replaced the dark life of hostility to God (the grumbling in the OT passage) with a new possibility of life. The person who accepts God's grace, forgiveness and new life in Christ and the person who is still enslaved by sin are as different as a living being and a corpse. We have been 'raised up with him' (NB Jesus being raised on the cross and the serpent being raised on a pole). In his love and mercy God has completed his great work through Christ to bring 'new life' to 'dead sinners'. In the last two verses Paul says we have been saved (justified) not through our own actions but by faith in what God has done for us

GOSPEL

John 3.14-21

Bible page 90

This links the previous two passages. Just as Moses made a bronze snake and raised it up so that the person who had been poisoned could look at it and recover, so we, bitten by evil can look at the crucified and ascended Lord and be saved. It is all more positive than Moses and the commandments. The law condemns; the light shines on believers and brings them to eternal life.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God, whose brooding Spirit brings life to birth
and in Christ restores us to new life,
bless all mothers as they care for their families.
Feed them as they nourish and sustain;
strengthen them as they protect and shelter;
embrace them as they love and cherish,
that children may grow on secure foundations
and all may flourish to your honour and glory.
Amen.

FOR OUR PRAYERS



GIVE THANKS FOR

- » the power of God to raise up Christ and bring new life to us
- » our mothers, for Mary the mother of Christ and for the church which nourishes us

PRAY

- » for our understanding of the cross and of God's forgiveness and saving love
- » that we may grow closer to God during Lent
- » for those who live in Breakspeare Court, Burbridge Road and Cardiff Way
- » for those who worship at the Methodist Church and for their minister, the Revd Derek McLean

THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR IN NEED

- » Jean Harris : Vanessa : Sarah Jenkins : Annie Rycroft : Ben : Rosemary Tucker : Sheila Hayes : Hazel Muskett : Lillian : Maureen Chester : Claire Argent-Phillips & Harry : Ewan Mander

RIP

- » Shirley Ogle (Leavesden) : Eric Varty

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Jeremiah 31.31-34; Hebrews 5.5-10;
John 12.20-33

AVAILABILITY

Peter's day off is Thursday

THE COMING WEEK

MONDAY 12th

- 12.00 noon Funeral of Shirley Ogle at the Crematorium
- 2.15 pm Tiny Tots
- 7.30 pm Ringers' practice in St Lawrence tower

TUESDAY 13th

- 10.15 am Tuesday Coffee in the B'spear Room
- 2.00 pm Lent Course in the Breakspeare Room
- 7.00 pm St Lawrence Youth Club meets in the church hall
- 8.00 pm Parochial Church Council meets in the Breakspeare Room

WEDNESDAY 14th

- 10.15 am Holy Communion including Corporate Communion for the Mothers' Union in St Lawrence
- 10.45 am Mothers' Union Lent Meditation in the Breakspeare Room
- 11.00 am Quiet Reflection in the Corpus Christi Chapel, St Lawrence
- 3.30 pm Messy Church in the Methodist Church
- 7.45 pm Choir practice in St Lawrence

FRIDAY 16th

- 10.00 am Craft Group in the Tin Church
- 10.00 am AHAL Coffee in the Henderson Hub, Abbots Langley High Street
- 2.00 pm Craft & Conversation in the Breakspeare Room
- 6.15 pm Youth Choir practice in the Breakspeare Room

NEXT SUNDAY

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT 18th March 2018

- 8.00 am Holy Communion** at St Lawrence
President & Preacher: The Revd Peter Waddell
- 9.30 am Parish Communion with Seekers and Creche** at St Lawrence
President & Preacher: The Revd Jos Perris
- 11.00 am Holy Communion** at Bedmond
President & Preacher: The Revd Brian Hibberd
- 12.30 pm Christening** for Tabitha Spears
- 12.30 pm Sunday Lunch Club in the church hall
- 6.30 pm Evening Prayer** at St Lawrence
Leader: The Revd Peter Waddell
- 7.30 pm Lent Course** in the Breakspeare Room

NOTICES

► **SIMNEL CAKE** in the church hall during coffee after the 9.30 am service today - kindly made by Doreen Higgs so thank you to her.

► **CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP** - Saturday 24th March from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon - lots of activities and fun for primary age children (younger ones can be accompanied). Contact the office to book a place for your child(ren).

► **PALM SUNDAY** (25th March) - the time of the services on Palm Sunday will be: 11.00 am on Kitters Green for the CTAL Blessing of the Palm (with a parallel service in St Lawrence for those who cannot do the walk); the Communion Service will begin at 11.30 am - the Methodists and Baptists will be joining us; the Catholics will begin their Mass in St Saviour's at 11.30 am. This is also the morning the clocks jump forward so you will be pleased not to lose your extra hour - providing you can stay asleep!

► **MALAWI 2018** - thank you to everybody who has supported our events or made a donation. If you would like to make a contribution, please pick up a donation form in church or go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/malawi2018>. We are having a stall at the **Transition Town Event** in the Henderson Hub on Saturday 24th March - if you can make cakes or provide jams or preserves to sell please speak to Wendy Meldrum.

► We are at the end of **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** but don't forget to keep buying fairtrade items when you are shopping - they will all have the logo on them.

► **TRADCRAFT REAL EASTER EGGS** available during coffee today - milk chocolate £4; plain chocolate £5.50

► Friends of St Lawrence **SAFARI SUPPER** on Saturday 14th April: could you be a host for 4 - 6 people for a main meal, or provide a dessert (reasonable costs paid)? Would you like to attend? Tickets £16.50. Contact Sue Coultrup 334387 or the office.

► **ABBOTS LANGLEY PLAYERS** will perform '**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**' in the Henderson Hub from Thursday 15th to Saturday 17th March at 7.45 pm with a matinee on the Saturday at 2.30 pm. There will be familiar faces, young and not so young, in the cast. Tickets from 0844 804 5354; £10, and £7.50 for under 18s.

► **EASYFUNDRAISING** - to help raise church funds use this link when you shop online: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlabbotslangley - it won't cost you a penny but the church will benefit. So far almost £1500 has been raised.

► Please keep your **USED STAMPS** for the Hospice of St Francis. Leave them in the box at the back of either church.

► **OUTLOOK** - the Church magazine - is available for March.

► **EASTER MONDAY** - if we are to offer food to those walking to St Albans we will need more help! **Breakfast** (cooking bacon and sausages, serving and clearing away) and **supper** (serving and clearing away) - please sign the list in church if you can help. And also sign if you can make a shepherds pie or fruit crumble. 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.

