

# THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY

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



3rd January 2021

## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

### TODAY

**9.30 am** Eucharist at St Lawrence

President: The Revd Peter Waddell  
Preacher: The Revd Brian Hibberd  
Readings: Jer. 31.7-14, Eph. 1 3-14  
John. 1. (1-9) 10-18

The 9.30am Sunday Eucharist will be live streamed every week via our YouTube Platform [TheSundayService.org](https://thesundayservice.org) and Facebook.

### 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.

### WELCOME

We're very sorry to announce that we've decided, for the moment, to cease all in person public worship at St. Lawrence and the Church of the Ascension.

This sad decision is obviously due to the grim national and local Covid statistics. We continue to think that coming to church is safe - however, for now, clearly it is even safer not to. It may only make a small difference to the overall picture, but right now we need all the small differences we can get.

We will of course continue to livestream our Sunday morning service each week at 9.30am, on <https://thesundayservice.org/> and our Facebook page. There will however be no congregation physically present at this service.

We'll keep this decision under constant review, and as soon as circumstances allow, look forward to welcoming you back into church. Here's to a much brighter and happier 2021 for us all!

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](mailto:adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk).

## THE PRAYERS AND BIBLE READINGS

### COLLECT:

Almighty God, in the birth of your Son you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word, and shown us the fullness of your love: help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love that we may know the fullness of his joy; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### READINGS:

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

**BIBLE NOTES:** This week's Bible readings could have been written with the year 2001 in mind! The prophet Jeremiah (**Ch 31 v. 7-14**) wants us to "sing aloud for gladness" because, despite all the gloom and despondency he sees around him in his particular period of history, he foresees much brighter days ahead. His people can see nothing but national disaster and despair. He, however, sees the day when young women will be dancing and young men and the elderly will be 'merry'. God, he is convinced, will 'turn their mourning into joy, comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow'.

Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus (**Ch.1 v 3-14**) carries the same note of optimism. However puzzled we may, justifiably, feel about our human situation he has no doubt that God 'with all wisdom and insight' will, in his own time, 'make known to us the mystery of his will'.

The writer of our Fourth Gospel, John, takes us further (**Ch. 1 v. 10-18**). God, he tells us, does not exist in some sort of heavenly vacuum, eternally socially distanced from humanity. He 'was in the world', lived as one of us, suffered as one of us. 'He came to what was his own' - and we know all too well what 'his own'

did to him. Mercifully, the world seems to have at least learned something from his becoming one of us - witness the many global acts of self-sacrifice, dedication, application of skill and determination in the face of probably the greatest challenge most of us have yet had to face. Like the writers of today's readings, using our eyes of faith will enable us to see a Divine purpose in whatever may now seem pointless and empty of meaning.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER:** All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### I wonder as I Wander

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die  
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and  
all  
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall  
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing  
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing  
Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing  
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die  
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;

## 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 Abbots Langley School, Abbots Road, Adrian House
- » those who worship at Church of Ascension
- » 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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER  
EPIPHANY  
10th January 2021

9.30 am Eucharist at St Lawrence

### President &

Preacher: Revd Peter Waddell

(Live streamed)

## READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Gen. 1.1-5  
Acts 19.1-7  
Mark 1. 4-11

## THE COMING WEEK

### Morning Prayer

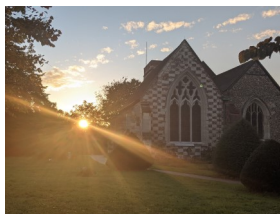
Morning prayer will be live streamed daily at 9.15am.



### A PRAYER IN LOCKDOWN

\*The doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked. (John 20.19)\*

Ever present God,  
be with us in our isolation,  
be close to us in our distancing,  
be healing in our sickness,  
be joy in our sadness,  
be light in our darkness,  
be wisdom in our confusion,  
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,  
that when the doors reopen  
we may with the zeal of Pentecost  
inhabit our communities  
and speak of your goodness  
to an emerging world.  
For Jesus' sake.  
**Amen.**



## AVAILABILITY

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

## Notices...

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the collection in aid of the Children's Society which raised £422

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](mailto: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.

Outlook - January edition is available now, you can purchase a copy from Martins, Abbots Langley or by emailing the office.

## Bishops Golden Rules

### Golden Rule One

Each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So much of the public rhetoric is sowing fear about the danger of other people. So, taking all the official precautions, offer help and reassurance to others – and don't demonise anyone or any group.

### Golden Rule Two

Think about who may be suffering more than me. For those of us who are healthy there is much less to worry about but the elderly, the housebound and those with chronic health conditions may be very anxious. How about each church undertaking an audit of all the vulnerable people they know and sharing out the responsibility to phone them each day. There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer solace when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone. If you visit, follow all the official precautions or don't go.

### Golden Rule Three

Don't give into panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do your best to help them get it. If you are self-isolating you will of course need some supplies.

### Golden Rule Four

Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 – 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

## CONTACT NUMBERS

### Vicar:

The Revd Dr Peter Waddell 01923 263013

Email: [vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk)

### Curate:

The Revd Maxine Howarth

Email: [curate@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto: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:

Kathryn Goodman on 01923 681760

### Church Office Opening Times:

10.00 am to 12.30 pm Mon-Fri - 01923 261795

Email: [adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk)

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

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