



Outlook

January 2025

**Abbots Langley
and Bedmond
Parish
Magazine**

50p



Dear Reader

Welcome to a packed first edition of *Outlook 2025*!

We have plenty of events and services planned for the parish over the course of 2025, and here at *Outlook* we will keep you posted of when these are

happening, so that you can add them to your diary.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful new year and of course, happy reading!

Amanda Hawkes

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Kathy and Immy in Concert



Kathy (left) and Immy (right), supported by Lucas and the rest of their families, put on a spectacular performance to help raise funds for the Friends of St Lawrence and Malawi (see page 18).



January Calendar



REGULAR SERVICE TIMETABLE

Sunday

8am Eucharist
at St. Lawrence

9.30am Eucharist
at St. Lawrence

11.30am Eucharist at
the Church of the
Ascension

Wednesday

12.00 noon Eucharist

Monday to Saturday

9.15am Morning Prayer

WEEKLY EVENTS

*Weekly events do not
happen on a bank
holiday.*

Monday 10am

Coffee Morning
Breakspeare Room

Tuesday 10.30am

Tiny Tots
Breakspeare Room

Thursday 8.00pm

Friends and Faith Group
Breakspeare Room

Friday 10.00am (starts
back 10th January

Bedmond Bells Craft
and Chat
*The Church of the
Ascension*

Friday 2pm

Craft and Conversation
Breakspeare Room

OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 4th 9.30am

Churchyard Working
Party (CWP)
*St Lawrence
Churchyard*

Sunday 5th 5.00pm

Breathing Space
St Lawrence Church

Wednesday 8th 11am

Mother's Union
Breakspeare Room

Wednesday 8th 3.30pm

Messy Church
Methodist Church

Wednesday 8th 2pm

Compassionate Café
Breakspeare Room

Sunday 19th 1pm

Sunday Lunch
*St Lawrence Church
Hall*

Sunday 19th 5.00pm

Taizé Service
St Lawrence Church

Sunday 19th 6.30pm

Nameless Youth Group
Breakspeare Room

Saturday 25th 6.00pm

Mary Poppins
Sing A Long
*St Lawrence Church
Hall*

Sunday 26th 3.30pm

The Spark Service
St Lawrence Church



Funerals taken in December

Lindsay Bull
Walter Haythorpe
Doris Haskell
Dorothy McKenzie
Frank Tilley



Christenings taken in December

Zola Denyer





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Abbots Langley: 01923 271 707 Mon 10 - 4, Tues & Thurs 10 - 3, Wed & Fri 10 - 1
Rickmansworth: 01923 293 136 Mon, Tues & Thurs 10 - 3.30, Wed & Fri 10 - 12.30
South Oxhey: 0208 515 8321 Mon to Fri 10 - 4, Wed specialist appointments only
County wide Adviceline: 0800 144 8848, Mon-Wed 10am - 9pm Thurs & Fri 10am to 8pm Saturday -10am to 4pm.
This number also uses Relay UK, type in 18001 then 0800 144 8848

Messy Church

We had a brilliant and very busy December Christmas Messy Church with a number of new families attending. Our theme was Jesus' saying ... "I am the light of the world".

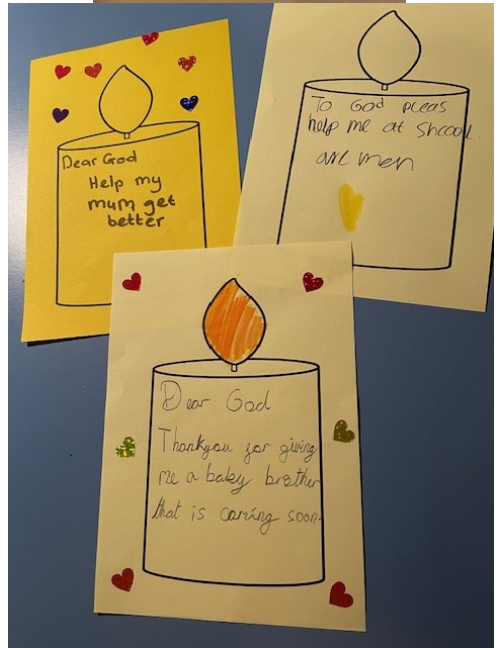
Dennis told the story of the nativity to the children and this was followed by our Messy Church Nativity Play. All the children had parts to play with angels and kings being the most popular. There were some fun and very messy Christmas crafts as well with painted Christmas trees, wooden baubles for the Messy Church Christmas wreath which we displayed in St Lawrence's at the Christmas Wreath Festival. As ever, the food craft was one of the favourites with the baby Jesus as a jelly baby swaddled in a sugar icing blanket! We rounded off the afternoon with our Christmas party tea with amazing pizzas made by Nella and Daniel from one of our Messy Church families!

**Our January Messy Church will be
Wednesday January 8th
from 3.30 – 5.45pm**

in the Methodist Church on the High Street. Our theme will be Jesus' saying "I am the true vine". Please let us know you are coming.

Contact: wendymeldrum@gmail.com
or the Church Office on 01923 261795.

**All are welcome ... come and join in
the fun!**



Making time for God in a time-poor life

If you are anything like me, you will find it very hard to make time on an average day for any kind of spiritual discipline. Discovering some useful apps has been part of the answer for me; they help structure daily times with God by giving devotional time a framework and providing inspiration and discipline when I can't find any.

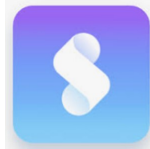
A daily opportunity to join in with morning and evening prayer online can be found on the Church of England's 'Pray' app. Here you can tune in to a pre-recorded service and follow the readings and responses with prayers, a Psalm, a Bible reading and intercessions. I've used this app for a couple of years, doing the Prayer During the Day with a cup of tea first thing in the morning – it takes about 15 minutes, so great if you are very short of time.

I began to feel that 15 minutes wasn't giving me time to reflect on the readings and two other apps have done something to fill that need. Unlike the other two apps mentioned here, which are free, the 'Soultime' app needs a subscription, but it's worth it. It offers daily 5-minute meditations on all sorts of topics (forgiveness, gratitude, God's love) and there is an online questionnaire which means that meditations are tailored to your personal interests. The app also contains the whole Bible, hymns, sleep stories, an online journalling tool and some fascinating interviews from a podcast series.

Finally, the Church of England's 'Everyday Faith' app gives six days' worth of material around a specific theme each week. There's a Bible reading, a reflection, a suggested response action and a prayer for each day -all of which can be listened to in ten minutes. (A second early cup of tea in the morning now seems a good idea.) Everyday Faith has some other features which I haven't had time to investigate yet, but which look very interesting – like the opportunity to join a 'faith journey' exploring topics like parenting, relationships, career, calling, wellbeing, forgiveness and others.

Using an app to structure a devotional life won't be everyone's cup of tea (no pun intended!), but if you are struggling to find time or inspiration for Bible reading, prayer, meditation or other devotional activities, it is worth looking into. There is a huge range of devotional apps available. It would be really interesting to hear from anyone else who has an app that they have found useful in helping them to maintain their devotional life

Helen Shephard



From the Archives

I have recently had cause to look through the Parish magazines to search out the history of the Lych Gate. I thought it might be interesting to share with you the various entries that I found from 1901 -1902. Just to give the context you need to know that Queen Victoria died on 22nd January 1901 having reigned from 20th June 1837 until her death. In the November Outlook I quoted from the Church magazine of 1901 which talked about a meeting called on July 18th 1901 to consider building a Lych Gate as a fitting memorial to Queen Victoria. Then last month I reported that plans were starting to get underway. This month I will I can give you an update on what happened next.....

‘THE QUEEN VICTORIA MEMORIAL

Although there has been a fairly general response to the circular which was sent out asking subscriptions to the above, yet the amount promised so far is not large. So far as the Committee can, at present, find out the cost of the proposed Lych Gate would be about £150, whilst the alterations to the present approach to the Church and Vicarage would cost another £50, whereas the amount already promised is only about £60. The subscription list will remain open for another fortnight to allow further promises to be received, and if at the end of that time the Committee do not consider that promises of a sufficient amount have been received to justify them in carrying out the work, a meeting of Subscribers will be called to consider some

alternative scheme. A suggestion has been made that an apparatus for chiming the quarter hours, attached to the clock, might be a suitable form for the memorial to take, But after all it seems a great pity that the scheme for the Lych Gate which at the same time would be a most suitable memorial, and a very handsome addition to the Church and Village, should be allowed to drop for want of funds.’

Oh dear it looked as if the Lych gate might never have been built but the next entry in the Parish magazine was this....



‘THE LYCH GATE

‘The Lych Gate as a Memorial to H.M. the late Queen is at last in progress. The design is that of Mr Kinneir Tarte, whilst the Committee have entrusted the work to Mr. E. Glenister, we hope that now that the work is really started, good progress may be made and the Memorial soon complete. A design of the Gate is now hanging in the Church Porch. Mr High, the Hon Secretary will be glad to receive any further subscriptions.’

Final instalment in February.....

Carol Higgs

Parish People

JUDY ROE (nee Grinham) MBE Part 3

After swimming, Judy's attention turned to Hockey. From being a complete novice, she rose to become captain of the 2nd XI and played in the 1st team that won the Middlesex Championships twice. With other parents she started a football club at her son's primary school doing the admin and managing to get matches for the boys after contacting other schools. The team was known as Northwood Juniors. She then, with others, started a colts team at Eastcote Hockey Club, again doing all the admin. Both her son Keith and daughter, Alison, joined the Colts aged 8, and 9 and a half, and Keith became an international indoor hockey player and Alison played Junior County.

Sadly, her marriage was not working and she and her husband decided to divorce. The family home was sold, and the children came to live with her and her widowed mother. Her son attended a private school for his secondary education and, as the fees rose, Judy decided to get a job to help finance this and she obtained a post as a Field Fundraiser for Barnardos. She was surprised to get the job as she only had 2 O Levels as her swimming had greatly interrupted her education. However, they were both in English and this has stood her in good stead for the rest of her life. Evidently all her experience in setting up the football and hockey teams and the press releases she had written

was enough and she was offered the job on the spot. It was ideal as she could work from home so could also be there for her children. After three and a half years she was promoted into the training department and trained fundraisers, going around the country and setting up courses for another three and a half years. The workload became overwhelming, and Judy resigned. She then worked for Abbeyfield as a consultant fundraiser.

One day she had a phone call from Barnardos saying that the head of training was retiring and asked her if she was interested in the job. After a very informal interview she was offered the job and returned to Barnardos as head of training for seven years when she was then made redundant. Her redundancy pay helped to buy her second husband, Mike's boat which became a lifeline for him as he battled cancer. Within a month Judy got a job with the Samaritans as a consultant fundraiser and thoroughly enjoyed meeting the branch managers and being seen as a colleague rather than someone from 'Head Office'. She reluctantly left the Samaritans as Mike was no longer able to work, and with his boat down in Cornwall it made sense to move down there.

Judy had met Mike Roe at a dinner party given by a colleague in 1979. The house had a swimming pool attached and Mike said he fell in love with Judy when he saw her swimming. They were very happily married for over 25 years. They moved into Abbots Road into a 5 bedroomed house that needed a lot of repairs, and they worked so hard to make it liveable. Mike and Judy lived

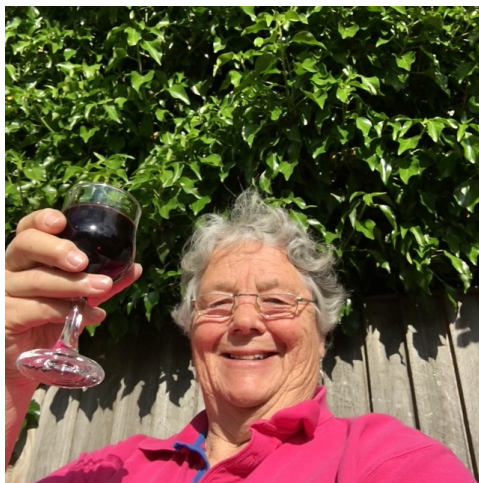
in several houses in Abbots Road until their move to Cornwall. During this time Judy was Parish Secretary for a short while. After Mike died in 2010 Judy decided to move back to Abbots where she lived with her dog Sam until she emigrated to New Zealand last September. She wrote the articles for Parish People for over 8 years (until she persuaded me to take over) and was also a member of the church choir.

50 years after her outstanding achievements in swimming Judy was at last formally recognised and awarded the MBE thanks to pressure on the government from her daughter and the swimmer Duncan Goodhew. What a difference from the instant glory and rewards given to today's sports personalities!

Judy collecting her MBE.



To end with I want to quote a newspaper article which Judy's mother kept in her purse. The reporter says:



After last night's race I spoke to Philippa Gould, a New Zealand swimmer who had travelled halfway round the world to finish third behind Judy. She said "I'm delighted Judy won, just as pleased as if I had won myself. For Judy is the most lovable person I have ever met" And that's a pretty nice thing to say about someone who has just beaten you hollow and made your own record look like a snail's pace. But all the swimming world talk that way about Judy.

God Bless Judy. We will miss you.

Judy wishes everyone a Very Happy Christmas

from New Zealand

By Brenda Southorn

From the Curate

The start of the new year always brings a sense of possibility. We reflect on the year gone by – its highs and lows, its lessons and losses – and we turn our faces toward the future. Many of us arrive in January with New Year’s resolutions ready to go; grand plans to finally get fit, eat better, spend less, or just generally cultivate better habits.



These resolutions, though well-intentioned, often carry with them an unspoken pressure to be perfect. By mid-January, that pressure can feel like a real burden. Some of us might already have broken a resolution or given up on one entirely. So, we begin our year already feeling like a bit of a failure.

Recently on retreat, I spent some time thinking about this, as I was reading Emma Ineson’s books *Failure*, which I can heartily recommend. Failure is a tricky word, and a scary one too. It comes to us from the Old French verb *faillir*, meaning ‘to lack’ or ‘to fail.’ In English it was originally a verb only, and it wasn’t until the seventeenth century that it was used as a noun – a failure. Ineson writes: “Worst of all is ‘a failure.’ It is a name. A title. An identity. Not just someone who fails or deals with failure but is, inside and out. A Failure. End of. It feels so final.”

But here’s the thing: failure isn’t something to fear. In fact, for Christians, failure is essential to the way we understand both our lives and our faith.

Think about it. At first glance, Jesus’ ministry might look like a story of

failure. He was born in a stable, not a palace. He gathered a ragtag group of followers, not a conquering army. He didn’t overthrow Rome, as many hoped the Messiah would. And then, after just three years of public ministry, he was betrayed, abandoned, and executed. From the world’s perspective, Jesus’ death was a humiliating failure – the end of his mission and his life. But what looked like a failure to the world was, in fact, the ultimate triumph. Through the resurrection, God revealed a truth that goes deeper than our human understanding: even in what seems like defeat, God is at work.

“In order to know whether something is a failure you need to know which plan it didn’t go according to. And sometimes we are considered to have failed due to other people’s expectations being wrong. Jesus looked like a failure... But according to God’s plan – the redemption of humanity and eternal salvation through death and resurrection – he was a resounding success.” This perspective on failure changes everything. It means that our mistakes, our setbacks, and our broken resolutions are not the end of the story.

Of course, there are different types of failures. Some big, some small. Some to be embraced (e.g., failures we make on the way to discovery). And some to be avoided at all costs (e.g. when our failures have hurt others and broken trust.) Most weeks in our worship at St Lawrence, in the confession, we say together, "... heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault." I certainly find these categories helpful each week as I recall the ways in which I've failed that week!

Failure, in this context, is not simply about messing up or making mistakes. It's about recognizing where we've fallen short, acknowledging it, and bringing it before God with a repentant heart. Confession is not a moment of shame but an act of trust in God's boundless grace. In those moments, we're reminded that failure doesn't define us—God's love does.

The truth is, many of us fear failure because it feels tied to our sense of worth. When we fail, we're not just upset about the mistake itself—we often feel ashamed, as though the failure says something about who we are. That fear can be crippling. It stops us from taking risks, from trying new things, and even from being honest about our struggles.

But failure isn't something to be feared. It's a place we can dwell for a moment, a space where we can learn and grow. When we stop running from failure and face it, we often find unexpected gifts: humility, resilience, and a deeper understanding of ourselves and God. In fact, failure can become a profound

teacher. When we look at our setbacks and mistakes through the lens of grace, we see that they are not dead ends but stepping stones. They remind us of our need for God and open our hearts to His work in our lives.

In His hands, the ending is always one of love, redemption, and hope. Failure might shape a chapter or two, but it will never have the final word. That belongs to God—and His word is always one of grace.

Happy New Year, and may you find courage, hope, and peace in God's love for you throughout the year ahead.

Helen

A Collect for the New Year

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Subscriptions for 2025

Thank you to all those who have already paid for their 2025 Outlook subscription. For those that still need to pay, the subscription for 2025 remains unchanged at £6 if we deliver but has increased to £17 for copies that we post.

To renew, please drop £6 for deliveries or £17 for postal copies, into the church office with a note of your name and address or if you are able to send us the payment by BACS transfer that makes it easier for us.

Please use the reference Outlook and your surname.

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If you do not yet subscribe but would like to have a copy posted or delivered to you please contact the Church office and we can set that up for you.

Thank you to all the businesses that support us by paying for advertising space and to those who deliver the Outlooks every month. We are very grateful to you all and would like to wish you all the very best for 2025.

Carol and Amanda



Malawi

Our next fundraising event will be:

**SING – A – LONG
to Mary Poppins**

Saturday 25th January. 6.00pm

This will be in St Lawrence Church Hall. Come and enjoy singing along to a great musical. There will be crisps and nibbles; BYO drink. Why not dress up and get into the zone!!

Contact: wendymeldrum@gmail.com
or the Church Office on 01923 261795



Look out for our 2025 Programme of events in the New year. At the moment we doing a final confirmation of activities and dates. There promises to be some old favourites like our sing a long and some new events! So, keep a look out and your diaries ready!



Bedmond Bells WI

As I write this, Christmas is almost upon us and we are looking forward to our December meeting when we will have some 'live' entertainment, some festive refreshments and seasonal activities.

Our 2025 programme starts in January with a talk from Nik Pringle, a retired policeman, who has many amusing and interesting tales to tell from policing in Hertfordshire. We have some other events and outings in the pipeline for the new year too, so...

Watch this
SPACE

We are holding a Community Café on Thursday 23rd January in the Tin Church, as we did last winter, from 12.30 to 2 pm. A lunch of soup and a filled roll, cake and tea or coffee will be served, all for just £5.00. We hope you will be able to join us.



The Tin Church craft group takes a break over Christmas but will start meeting again on Friday 10th January from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Do drop in and join us for craft, chat and refreshments.



Our monthly meetings are held on the second Friday in Bedmond Village Hall, from 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome.

For further information, see our contact details below.

Christine Hunt – President
christineehunt@gmail.com
or 01923 573236

Moira Bunting – 01923 262242

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Church of the Ascension (Basic kitchen facilities)

PARISH DIRECTORY

The code 01923 precedes all the telephone numbers unless stated otherwise

Abbeyfield (West Herts) Society	Marcus Coultrup (334387)
Bedmond Bells WI	Janette Noonan 01923 266921 or Moira Bunting 01923 262242
Bedmond Village Carpet Bowls	Margaret Forrest (670989)
Bedmond Village Hall	Simon Smith (07401 331302)
Bedmond Village Taskforce	bedmondvillagetaskforce@gmail.com
Bell Ringing	Phill Higgs (07973 265666)
Bowling Club	off Langley Road (alongside the Scout HQ)
Breakspeare Community Pre-School	(by Tannerswood School) (274483)
Brownies, Rainbows and Guides	www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested
A/L Carers and Former Carers Support Group	Brenda Southorn 677139
Churches Together	Brenda Southorn 677139
Citizens Advice Bureau	01923 271 707, see advertisement on page 4
Community Centre	(to hire 07530 266293)
Cricket Club	www.abbotssc.hitssports.com
Evergreen Youth FC	Ian Turner (266640)
Family Planning	Garston Clinic (234525) Mon & Wed 6.00 – 8.00 pm
Flower Arrangement Society	Sylvia Clinton (262678)
Friends of St Lawrence	Bill Sanderson (265963) / Wendy Meldrum (07710688633)
Gardening Society	Jane Lay (447281)
Gilbert & Sullivan Society	Brenda Southorn (677139)
Hillside Residents Association	School Mead (261734)
Home Start (Helping Families Under Stress)	(248010)
Infant Welfare Clinic	St Saviour's Hall - Monday 1.30 to 3.00 pm (264639)
Jo Jingles	Mags Bilson (222529)
Library	Open: Mon & Thu 1.00pm-6.00pm; Tue & Fri 9.30am-6.00pm Sat 9.30am - 1.00pm; Wed & Sun closed all day
Local History Society	Delva O'Reagan (267585)
Mothers' Union	Jill Matthews (262046)
Orchestra (ALO)	Penny Abbot (01442 873205)
Parent & Toddler Group	Community Centre; Tue, Wed & Friday 9.15-11.15 am
Parish Council and Halls	Council Office, Langley Road (265139)
Players (ALP)	Jean James (461549)
Royal British Legion	Secretary: Chris Driscoll (01923 675563)
St Lawrence Church Hall	Church Office (261795)
St Lawrence Church Flower Arrangers	Church Office (261795)
Scouts:1st Abbots Langley (3rd North Watford)	Chair: Richard Gabriel chair@abbotslanglescouts.co.uk
Langleybury Scout Group	5thnwscouts@gmail.com
Youth FC	Tim Denyer (270563)

GPS PRINTWORKS

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Kevin: sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk
Lea: studio@gpsprintworks.co.uk**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Mothers Union stalls at the MU and Friends of St Lawrence Christmas coffee morning. We raised £340 for Mothers Union projects at home and abroad.

Our January meeting will be on:
Wednesday 8th January at 11.00am and will be coffee and chat in the Breakspare Room. Followed by 12.00pm Corporate Communion in St Lawrence Church.
Then at 13.00 there will be an 'After Christmas Lunch' at The Royal Oak, Abbots Langley.

For more information contact:
Branch Leader Jill Matthews on 07966887380 or
email: matthewsjill2410@gmail.com

Breathing Space

Would we recognise Jesus if he came among us today?

Sunday 5th January
5.00pm
St Lawrence Church

A brief and lively look at what we know about Jesus and our search for him as Epiphany begins.

Come and join us for an interesting discussion with refreshments.

All are very welcome to attend.



A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority.

From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator.

Further details can be found at arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/

For more eco tips visit:
arocha.org.uk/wild-christian



QR Codes

If you would like to access the website for either St Lawrence and the Church of the Ascension or for St Albans Cathedral, you can do so by scanning the QR codes below.

QR code for St Lawrence Church and The Church of the Ascension



QR code for St Albans Cathedral



Churchwarden

Tom Betteridge
(churchwarden2@abbotslangley.org.uk)

St Lawrence Church Abbots Langley *and*
The Tin Church Bedmond

To submit an article for Outlook, please contact the Church office.



CONTACTS

Vicar: The Revd Dr Peter Waddell
Tel: 01923 263013
Email: vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk

Curate: The Revd. Helen Neville
Mobile: 07718 172642
Email: curate@abbotslangley.org.uk

THE CHURCH OFFICE:

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The Friends of St Lawrence

The Friends had a very busy build up to Christmas! We had our Friends and Mothers' Union Coffee Morning on 30th November followed by a Concert by Immy and Kathy that evening. As we write, we are looking forward to our Christmas Wreath Festival on the weekend of 14th and 15th December.

Our Coffee Morning was a great success with lots of people coming along to try out our famous bacon and sausage butties! There were cakes, raffles and plenty to buy for those last minute Christmas presents. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make it happen, especially to those in the kitchen making the coffee and butties! A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support us, it was wonderful to see so many there and we made £1,124 during the morning which is an amazing result. Thank you all!



Immy and Kathy in Concert took place on the same day as the Coffee Morning, in the evening ... it was a very busy day for the Friends team! Immy and Kathy gave an outstanding performance and it was a delight to all to hear them sing. The concert was very well attended and all who came were treated to a wonderful selection of songs from opera to musical including a super performance from Lucas ... what a talented family. The funds raised by the concert will be divided between the Friends and the Malawi Project and we thank Immy and Kathy for their support.



GENEROUS GIVING

at St Lawrence's,
Abbots Langley

How to support St Lawrence's

We are entirely self-supporting, and rely on the generosity of our visitors and friends to resource the life and work of this church. *Thank you for your support*

4 easy ways to support us:

Contactless

Tap the card reader



Online

Scan with your phone

Regular Giving

Pick up a leaflet



Cash



Scan to give

www.abbotslangley.org.uk

Sing A Long



Join in the fun!
St Lawrence
Church Hall.
6pm: £7pp: BYO drink



For tickets contact...
wendymeldrum@gmail.com or the
Church Office on 01923 261795

Sat 25th January

Deadline for all content for February Outlook is Friday 24th January