

# (W) utlook

February 2025

Abbots Langley and Bedmond Parish Magazine



#### Dear Reader

Welcome to the February edition of Outlook. This month sees the start of our Stewardship Campaign, you can read more about this on page 10. We also have details on the Lent course which is due to start soon, head to

Page 16 for more details. Plus plenty more articles - enjoy!

> available in the Refreshments

interval

Amanda Hawkes Assistant Editor of Outlook

# are delighted to welcome in concert... St Lawrence Church

The London Centra Fellowship Band Of The Salvation Army



Saturday 22nd

February

7pm





# February 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 Breakspear Room

Tuesday 10.30am Tiny Tots Breakspear Room

Thursday 8.00pm Friends and Faith Group Breakspear Room

Friday 10.00am (starts
back 10th January
Bedmond Bells Craft
and Chat
The Church of the
Ascension

Friday 2pm Craft and Conversation Breakspear Room

# OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 1st 9.30am Churchyard Working Party (CWP) St Lawrence Churchyard

> Sunday 2nd 5.00pm Choral Evensong St Lawrence Church

Sunday 2nd 6.30pm Nameless Youth Group Breakspear Room

Wednesday 5th 10.00am
Coffee Morning
The Tin Church

Wednesday 5th 2.00pm Compassionate Café Breakspear Room

Sunday 9th 5.00pm Breathing Space St Lawrence Church

Monday 10th 7.00pm FOSL Meal La Banq

Wednesday 12th 11am Mother's Union Breakspear Room

Wednesday 12th 3.30pm Messy Church Methodist Church

Sunday 16th 1pm Sunday Lunch St Lawrence Church Hall Sunday 16th 5.00pm
Taizé Service
St Lawrence Church

Sunday 16th 6.30pm Nameless Youth Group Breakspear Room

Thursday 20th 12pm - 2pm Bedmond Bells Community Café The Tin Church

Saturday 22nd 7.00pm London Central Fellowship Band of the Salvation Army Concert St Lawrence Church

> Sunday 23rd 3.30pm The Spark Service St Lawrence Church



# Funerals taken in January

Betty Harris Douglas Bishop Edith 'Jill' Calderwood Alan Hawkes





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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**

It was great to see all our Messy Church Families again after the long Christmas break, and new families too, and to wish them all a Happy New Year! We had a wonderful afternoon of fun activities and crafts continuing our "I am" sayings of Jesus with "I am the true vine". We had a lot of grape and vine focussed crafts including making a picture of a bunch of grapes and a model of a grape vine. This was followed by a grape hunt whereby the children had to hunt for paper grapes around the church to make up their bunch with a chocolate "treasure" when complete! We made leaf prayers which we stuck on a vine and this can now be seen on the notice board in St Lawrence Church Hall. And, of course, there was a food craft made of icing sugar grapes!! The children also had the chance to see the Messy Church Wreath which we made in December for the Friends of St Lawrence Christmas Wreath Festival.

Our next Messy Church will be on ...

#### FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> FROM 3.30 – 5.45PM ABBOTS LANGLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Please let us know if you are coming so that we can plan for the crafts and for Messy Tea which is the meal that we provide. Contact Wendy Meldrum on wendymeldrum@gmail.com or the Church Office on 01923 261795.

Please come and join in the fun ... everyone is welcome!



# **Keeping it in the Family**

On Christmas Eve we welcomed nearly 1500 people to our services. We were delighted to be able to have the donkey outside for each one and to have a real baby loaned to us for each one too. Baby Jared, the grandson of Debra Chalk was the baby Jesus at one of the services. He followed in a long line of babies from the Chalk family who have all been baby Jesus. Debra Chalk recently posted on her Facebook page that 8 years ago it was Finn, 15 years ago Nathaniel, 30 years ago Eloise and 32 years ago it was Dominic.

Whilst the Chalk family may have the record for providing the most babies, the Southorn/Stratton family may have the record for covering the most roles. Emma Stratton has been Mary, Gabriel and the narrator; her Dad was a King; her brother David has been a King and also Joseph but not at the same time of course; her brother in law has been a King; her husband has been Joseph; her Mum, Brenda has been director and narrator. All four of Brenda's grandchildren have been involved as babies, a shepherd, a King or Gabriel. Several members of the Bunting/Bailey family too have also been shepherds, narrators, a King and Mary.

It does not matter if you have been in the nativity just once or loads of times or if you are the only person in your family to have had an acting role or a role behind the scenes, we are very grateful to you all for making it a very special nativity every year, thank you all.



# BEN DIMOND - R.I.P. 7.10.38 - 9.12.24



Shortly before Christmas we learnt with great sadness that Ben Dimond had died.

Ben and his wife Hazel with their three young children Penelope, Rosemary and Joanna moved to Benmore farm in the 1970s, a small holding on the south side of Tom's Lane. Here they kept many animals, including donkeys and a Jersey cow, and lots of vegetables were grown.... a bit like "The Good Life" which was on TV at the time! Ben and Hazel's donkeys had starring roles at St Lawrence Church on Christmas Eves and Palm Sundays for many years. Ben and Hazel together with the three girls were stalwarts of life here at St Lawrence Church for about thirty years. Ben was heavily involved in our youth work, he frequently served on the PCC and also as a churchwarden.

During his professional life Ben worked initially with Lloyds Bank and then in London for what is now called BNP Paribas where he oversaw the computerisation of the bank in Britain. Ben had several brushes with ill health during this time including cancer and heart problems but he managed to overcome them.

Ben and Hazel fostered a young lad called Sean for a number of years. Sean is now 42 years old and he still keeps in touch from time to time.

Ben and Hazel moved to Winscombe in northern Somerset in 2002 where Ben became involved with helping out at the local village youth club, which was quite a shock to the system after fairly well-behaved church youngsters in Hertfordshire!

In recent years, Ben's medical diagnosis of Parkinson's and dementia necessitated Ben and Hazel's move in 2023 to St Monica's, a care home just outside Winscombe. It provided an independent living place for Hazel but with dementia units on the same site. Ben and Hazel's family which now includes six grandchildren were able to continue to share life with them both in their new homes.

Those of us at St Lawrence's who knew Ben were fortunate to have such a good example of how to live a full and committed Christian life. Ben's really was a life well lived.

Norman Meldrum

#### Your chance to get involved!

Have you ever wondered how the church runs: who makes all the decisions, who gets things happening?

It's not just the Vicar! We have churchwardens, and a Parochial Church Council which oversees everything that happens here. That PCC is supported by committees working in every essential area of the church's life. The committees are listed below – some of them are new this year. All of them are looking for people to get involved. Why not you?

Children and Young People – working with babies right through to 18 years

**Discipleship** – deepening everyone's faith, understanding the Gospel, growing in prayer.

**Evangelism** – introducing people to God and Jesus, and to our church family.

**Finance** – ensuring the parish has the resources it needs now and in the future.

**Pastoral** – looking after people, especially the sick, the poor, the bereaved, the lonely.

**Property** – maintaining and developing our wonderful buildings and grounds.

**Social** – making sure we celebrate well, and have a good time.

**Standing** – doing the big picture thinking and setting the agenda for PCC.

We can't do it unless we all pull together. How can you get involved?

Please speak to Peter, Helen or Tom about what role you might play.





#### 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. In January 2025 I quoted the article that said work had started on the building the Lych Gate. This is now the last entry from 1902...

'We must all be very glad to have in our midst a fitting memorial of the noble life and great reign of Queen Victoria. Not that we, who have, most of us, lived nearly all of our lives in that beneficent reign are likely to be forgetful of it, but we must be glad to have something to hand down to posterity to show how much we valued our privileges, and how highly we esteemed the noble woman and the great Queen. The idea of a Lych Gate was the happy suggestion of Mr. Armstrong, C.B., and we think that all will agree that the idea has been satisfactorily carried out in Mr Kinneir Tarte's beautiful design and in Mr Glenister's skilled workmanship. There is no need to give any description of the Gate, as our readers can all see it and appreciate it for themselves, but we hope that next month we may be able to include it in the picture on the cover of the Magazine. It is only necessary to

say that the subscriptions so far received are not sufficient to cover the whole cost, and we hope that those who have not vet subscribed will do so to Mr. High, or put their offering in the Box in the Church. The Bishop of Colchester very kindly came and dedicated the Lych Gate on Tuesday May 13th when there was a very good congregation. The service was a simple and beautiful one, and in the course of it the Bishop gave a short address. The singing of the Choir in the Processional Hymn and in the Hymn at the Lych Gate was most effective. The Vicar still has some of the Forms of Service left which he will be glad to give to any who may wish to have them. The inscriptions on the Lych Gate, which were most kindly carved by the Misses Nellie and Florence Ward are: "O come, let us worship "and " A.D.M.G (to the greater Glory of God), in Memory of Victoria, Oueen 1837-1901.'

This concludes the entries that appeared in the Church magazine from 1901 and 1902. We are currently looking at the Church porch and the restoration needed in that area but it will not be that long before we will need to do some work to restore the Lych Gate which is starting to show it age.



Carol Higgs

#### From the Vicar

What is it you value most about your parish church?

Is it our beautiful buildings: places of calm, somehow made special by years -centuries – of prayer, where so many momentous things have happened?

Is it our worship, whether the glorious Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas, or the week in, week out, Sunday Eucharist?

Is it knowing that everyone can find a home here: from the toddler to the 90-year old, in our various groups and activities?

Is it the fact that whoever they are, people can come here and know they'll find welcome, friendship, a listening ear or practical help?

Or is it all the good that happens from here: a hospital built in Malawi, the bereaved comforted, the hungry fed?

I hope it is all the above and more.

How do you think it gets paid for? After all, weddings and funerals aside, there's no charge for any of this – it is all *gift*, just offered freely and gladly.

Offered by whom? Contrary to what people sometimes say, there is no government funding for anything we do, and we don't get paid by the national Church either. Indeed, it's the other way round: as reasonably prosperous communities, Abbots Langley and Bedmond make a big financial contribution to making sure that other places across the diocese (the two counties of Herts and Beds) can have church and ministry as we do here. That's part of what being the Church of



England means, and we should be proud to do it.

No: everything that happens here depends on the generosity of the people who worship here, and our

friends in the wider community. That means you, reading this. It is your money, freely given, that enables the life of our churches to happen. So I want to take this opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who takes part in that giving. Some of the generosity in our parish is amazing.

Maybe, though, you've not thought about your giving for a while. Or perhaps, you're quite new to the parish family and so have not yet started to offer financial support. Well, this month and next are a great time to do so. We're going to run what in churchspeak gets called a 'stewardship campaign': that is, making a big effort to help people not only to understand the financial needs of the church, but to think of how what they do with their money is a vital part of their relationship with God. It's really striking that money was one of the things Jesus taught about most. 'Where your treasure is,' he said, 'there is your heart.'

Before going any further, two important disclaimers. Number one: Christian generosity is not just about what you give to the church. The church is important, of course — but God is at least equally concerned about the homeless, the prisoners, the environment, the poor... and your money should go at least as much to these as it does to the Church. Number

two: nobody can tell you how much you should be giving. Everyone's circumstances are so different that any kind of general rule just doesn't work. It might even be that some of you need to give *less* than you currently do! Precisely what you give isn't really the key question. More important is that you've thought and prayed and come to a serious Christian decision.

So how might you do that? Well, let me suggest four key questions to ask yourself about your giving. They could be called the four 'R's:

- Is my giving *regular*? Do I give in a disciplined, routine way ... or just when I happen to turn up, happen to feel like it, happen to remember? If you really care about the church, and if you possibly can, make it regular. Be dependable. By far and away the easiest way to do so is to join the Parish Giving Scheme (details below.)
- Is my giving *reviewed*? Do I sit down each year (Lent is a good time) and think, is this level of giving still right? We have quite a few givers whose level of giving has not changed at all for fifteen, twenty or more years .... but, of course, the value of money has. They are giving less generously, quite unintentionally, because they didn't review.
- Is my giving *real?* Am I giving at a level which shows I really care? A rich person who gives £10 a week doesn't care very much; a poor person giving the same clearly does. Here's a useful test: imagine that by some strange chance, all the money you had given last year was suddenly returned to you to spend

- as you pleased. Would that be great news? Would it make a massive difference? Or ... not really? The answer goes a long way to revealing how *real* your giving is.
- Is my giving every so often radical? That is, just occasionally, I go above and beyond the reasonable, the steady, the predictable? Do I do something wildly generous, almost silly in its generosity? That's a good way of reminding ourselves that at bottom, what we're doing is a matter of love and not mere duty. There should be some space for sheer spontaneous joy in it. One good opportunity to do this might be when you're planning your will – why not give in such a way as to enable this church to do something quite extraordinary?

Those are the questions all of us will be encouraged to think about over the next few weeks in church. Please do reflect on them yourself. And then, crucially: act. Join the Parish Giving Scheme, or (if you can) increase your existing gift. Think about what legacy you might leave. That way, we can make sure that everything you love about this parish has a future, and we'll go on sharing God's love in this place for the generations to come.

To join the Parish Giving Scheme, please visit www.parishgiving.org.uk and search for 'Abbots Langley and Bedmond'. Alternatively, please call 0333 002 1260.

If you have any queries about giving to the parish, please contact Tom Betteridge, our Planned Giving Secretary, on churchwarden2@abbotslangley.org.uk.

#### **Malawi**

#### QUIZ NIGHT: Saturday March 22nd 7.00pm St Lawrence Church Hall

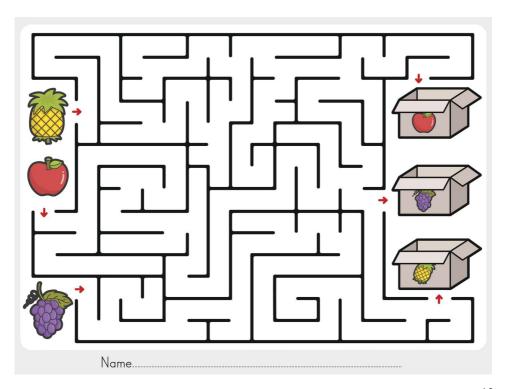
Our next fundraising event will a quiz night so why not join us for a fun evening of quizzing! Make up your own table of 8 or join a table on the night. There will be a two -course supper and BYO drinks. Tickets are £15pp. So, dust off those little grey cells and book yourself a fun night out!

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



#### Children's Corner

#### Can you help the fruit find the correct box?



# Bedmond Bells Women's Institute

We started the new year at our January meeting with a very interesting talk from Nik Pringle from the Police Historical Society on solving murders in Hertfordshire. It was gratifying to hear that Hertfordshire has a lower average number than other counties and a high success rate in apprehending the perpetrators. The night of our meeting was very chilly and frosty, so we were very pleased to see those hardy members who braved the wintry weather, and there was lots of cake to keep us warm for the journey home!

Later in the month we held a successful Community Café in the Tin Church, serving a simple soup, filled roll and cake lunch. Again, the weather wasn't good, but fortunately that didn't deter people from attending, and a very pleasant time was enjoyed by all. We are planning to hold several more, on 20th February and 20<sup>th</sup> March, so watch out for the posters and notices nearer the time.

We are beginning to look at outings and visits for the summer months and planning how we can participate in the VE and VJ 80 project.





We also hope to take part in the Abbots Langley Carnival again this year and are already thinking around the theme.

We have a varied and interesting programme planned for our meetings for 2025 so if you would like to attend as a visitor, join us of would just like further information, do contact us as detailed below.

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

Moira Bunting – 01923 262242
Facebook: BedmondBellsWI bedmondbellswi@gmail.com

# **Breathing Space**

#### Is three a crowd?

Love and relationships in a changing world

Sunday 9th February 5.00pm St Lawrence Church

All are warmly welcome.



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#### PARISH DIRECTORY

The code 01923 precedes all the telephone numbers unless stated otherwise

Abbeyfield (West Herts) Society

Bedmond Bells WI

**Bedmond Village Carpet Bowls** Bedmond Village Hall Bedmond Village Taskforce

Bell Ringing **Bowling Club** 

Breakspeare Community Pre-School Brownies. Rainbows and Guides

A/L Carers and Former Carers Support Group

Churches Together Citizens Advice Bureau Community Centre Cricket Club Evergreen Youth FC

Family Planning

Flower Arrangement Society Friends of St Lawrence

Gardening Society Gilbert & Sullivan Society Hillside Residents Association

Home Start (Helping Families Under Stress)

Infant Welfare Clinic

Jo Jinales Library

Local History Society Mothers' Union Orchestra (ALO) Parent & Toddler Group

Parish Council and Halls

Players (ALP) Royal British Legion

St Lawrence Church Hall

St Lawrence Church Flower Arrangers

Scouts:1st Abbots Langley (3rd North Watford) Chair: Richard Gabriel chair@abbotslangleyscouts.co.uk

Langleybury Scout Group

Youth FC

Marcus Coultrup (334387)

Janette Noonan 01923 266921 or Moira Bunting 01923 262242

Margaret Forrest (670989) Simon Smith (07401 331302) bedmondvillagetaskforce@gmail.com

Phill Higgs (07973 265666)

off Langley Road (alongside the Scout HQ) (by Tannerswood School) (274483) www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Brenda Southorn 677139 Brenda Southorn 677139

01923 271 707, see advertisement on page 4

(to hire 07530 266293) www.abbotscc.hitssports.com

Ian Turner (266640)

Garston Clinic (234525) Mon & Wed 6.00 - 8.00 pm

Sylvia Clinton (262678)

Bill Sanderson (265963) / Wendy Meldrum (07710688633)

Jane Lav (447281) Brenda Southorn (677139) School Mead (261734)

(248010)

St Saviour's Hall - Monday 1.30 to 3.00 pm (264639)

Mags Bilson (222529)

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9.30am - 1.00pm; Wed & Sun closed all day

Delva O'Reagan (267585) Jill Matthews (262046) Penny Abbot (01442 873205)

Community Centre; Tue, Wed & Friday 9.15-11.15 am

Council Office, Langley Road (265139)

Jean James (461549)

Secretary: Chris Driscoll (01923 675563)

Church Office (261795)

Church Office (261795)

5thnwscouts@gmail.com Tim Denyer (270563)

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



We held our after Christmas meal after our January meeting and communion.

Our next meeting is 12th February, which will be our AGM at 11.00am in the Breakspear Room, followed by Corporate Communion at 12.00pm in St Lawrence Church.

For more information contact:

Branch Leader Jill Matthews on 07966887380 or

email: matthewsjill2410@gmail.com

#### Heresy 101: A Lent Journey Through Error and Truth

This Lent, we invite you to join us for a lent group looking at some of the most famous heresies in the history of the Church. Our new group, *Heresy 101: A Lent Journey Through Error and Truth*, will look at classical heresies such as Arianism, Docetism, and Donatism, among others..

But why? Haven't these debates been settled? While the heresies themselves may feel distant, the questions they raise remain relevant. What do we believe about Jesus? How do we live out our faith? What does it mean to belong to the Church? These are issues Christians continue to discuss today.

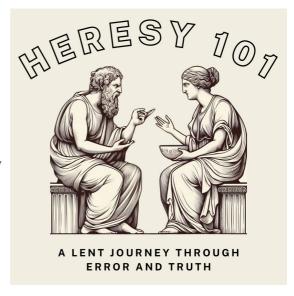
Each session will examine a specific heresy, the historical context in which it arose, and what it says about what the church *does* believe. We'll also reflect on how these ancient debates can help us recognise distortions of the gospel in our own time.

Whether you're new to theology or have been exploring it for years, you are so welcome.

What: Heresy 101

When: 6th March, 12:30pm Where: The Breakspear Room,

St Lawrence Church



### A Rocha Uk's Easy Eco Tips

Go green for Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter are a time for self-reflection, repentance and emulating Jesus' obedience to the Father. Is there something you'd like to give up or take up during Lent that will enable you to reflect on God, contribute to our planet's well-being and enhance others' lives through sustainable, eco-friendly living? Explore some of these changes at arocha.org.uk/go-green-for-lent/

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:

High Street Abbots Langley

WD5

Tel: 01923 261795

Email: adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk Website: www.abbotslangley.org.uk

#### The Friends of St Lawrence

# **Christmas Wreath Festival: December 14/15<sup>th</sup> December**

This was the Friends' second Christmas Wreath Festival and once again was a huge success raising over £825 in donations to enable the Friends of St Lawrence to maintain and repair our ancient Church building. It was a great community event with schools, nurseries, and youth organisations displaying wreaths along with Church and Village organisations and individuals. Pleasingly, more organisations displayed wreaths than last year.

The Friends' committee would like to say a huge thank you to all who made wreaths for the Festival and to all those who came along to see the stunning displays.

During the weekend, we asked people to write down their favourite wreaths and here are their answers:-

Schools and Children's

**organisations:** 1st choice: Ash Class from Tannerswood, Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> choice: Little Fawns Preschool and Rainbows. Joint 3rd choice: Abbots Langley Key Stage 1 and Beech Class from Tannerswood.

Church Organisations: 1st choice: St Lawrence Craft and Conversation, 2nd choice: Friends of the Tin Church, joint 3rd choice: St Lawrence Choir & the Bell ringers.

**Village Organisations:** 1st choice Abbots Langley Carers, 2nd choice:

The Friday Singers, 3rd choice: A/L G and S Society

**Commercial Wreaths:** Elvira's at the Hub

Individual Wreaths: Moira Bunting

#### Overall favourite choice: St Lawrence Craft and Conversation

Due to its success and popularity with the local community, we will continue to hold a Christmas Wreath Festival biennially; the next Christmas Wreath Festival will therefore be held in December 2026.... plenty of time to think up some exciting and creative wreaths!!



Friends of the Tin Church



Little Fawns Pre School



St Lawrence Craft and Conversation Group

# Friends of St Lawrence are delighted to present ... An Evening at La Banq



#### Come and join us for an evening at La Banq: High Street, Abbots Langley, WD5 OAR

All proceeds will be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the ancient Church building of St Lawrence which lies at the heart of our community of Abbots Langley. For tickets £20pp please contact

wendymeldrum@gmail.comor Church Office on 01923 261795



# 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





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www.abbotslangley.org.uk