



# Outlook

**December 2024**

**Abbots Langley  
and Bedmond  
Parish  
Magazine**

**50p**



## Dear Reader

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Welcome to the final edition of *Outlook* for 2024 where we are closing this year with another packed edition for you.

We would like to thank everyone who supports the magazine, whether it be reading it, contributing to the content,

proof reading, printing or delivering it; we are very grateful and hope you have enjoyed it this year. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2025.

*Amanda Hawkes*  
*Assistant Editor of Outlook*

---

## Some photos from the Pockets of Light Event...



Head to page  
12 to read  
about the event.





# December 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

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

### Friday 2pm

Craft and Conversation  
*Breakspeare Room*

## OTHER EVENTS

### Sunday 1st 6.30pm

Advent Carols  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Monday 2nd 6.30pm

Scout Christingle  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Wednesday 4th 10am

Coffee Morning  
*Church of the Ascension*

### Wednesday 4th 2pm

Compassionate Caf   
*Breakspeare Room*

### Friday 6th 7.30pm

Watford Band  
Christmas Concert  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Saturday 7th 9.30am

Churchyard Working Party  
(CWP)  
*St Lawrence Churchyard*

### Saturday 7th 2pm - 4pm

Children's Christmas  
Workshop  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Wednesday 11th 11am

Mother's Union  
*Breakspeare Room*

### Wednesday 11th 3.30pm

Messy Church  
*Methodist Church*

### Saturday 14th 10.30am - 12pm

Street Carol Singing  
*Outside the Hospice of St  
Francis Charity Shop*

### Saturday 14th 10.30am - 4pm

Wreath Festival  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Saturday 14th 12pm - 2pm

Crisis for Christmas Lunch  
*Methodist Church Hall*

### Sunday 15th 12pm - 4pm

Wreath Festival  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Sunday 15th 1pm

Sunday Lunch  
*St Lawrence Church Hall*

### Sunday 15th 5.00pm

Taiz  Service  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Sunday 15th 6.30pm

Nameless Youth Group  
*Breakspeare Room*

### Tuesday 17th 6pm

Carols around the Tree  
*Church of the Ascension*

### Sunday 22nd 3pm

Bedmond Christmas Carols  
*Church of the Ascension*

### Sunday 22nd 6.30pm

Nine Lessons and Carols  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Tuesday 24th 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.00pm

Candlelight Service  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Tuesday 24th 11pm

Midnight Mass  
*Church of the Ascension*

### Tuesday 24th 11.45pm

Midnight Mass  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Monday 25th 9.30am

Christmas Day Service  
*St Lawrence Church*

### Monday 25th 11.30am

Christmas Day Service  
*The Church of the Ascension*



# M. K. Ginder & Sons

## Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

*"The Family Concern, Concerned About Families"*

*Serving the Community Since 1983*

Since 1983, we have been looking after families from Watford and the surrounding areas at their time of need. We pride ourselves on being a local independent **family-run funeral directors** offering the **complete funeral and memorial service**.

Your local office:

**ABBOTS LANGLEY OFFICE**

51 High Street,  
Abbots Langley  
WD5 0AA

Call **01923 269994**

Email **abbotslangley@ginder.co.uk**



SELECTED  
Independent  
FUNERAL HOMES®  
Member of Federation



Proud to offer funeral plans by

### Golden Charter

Smart Planning for Later Life



M. K. Ginder & Sons is an appointed representative of Golden Charter Limited trading as Golden Charter Funeral Plans which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FRN:965279).

Further details are available on our website: [www.ginder.co.uk](http://www.ginder.co.uk)



**Contact Us:**

07852 146857



**LITTLE FAWNS**  
Preschool & Forest School  
St Lawrences Church Hall  
Abbots Langley

**15 & 30 hour  
Childcare Support  
Funding available  
for 2, 3 & 4 year  
olds**

**For children  
age 2-5 years old  
Open 9am - 3pm  
Monday - Friday**



[www.littlefawnspreschool.co.uk/  
abbots-langley](http://www.littlefawnspreschool.co.uk/abbots-langley)

**citizens  
advice** **Three  
Rivers**

Your local office gives advice on a wide range of topics including debt, employment, relationship breakdown, benefits and consumer and housing issues.

Current opening times as below. Please see our website for email enquiries and full details of our service:

[www.threeriverscab.org.uk](http://www.threeriverscab.org.uk)

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

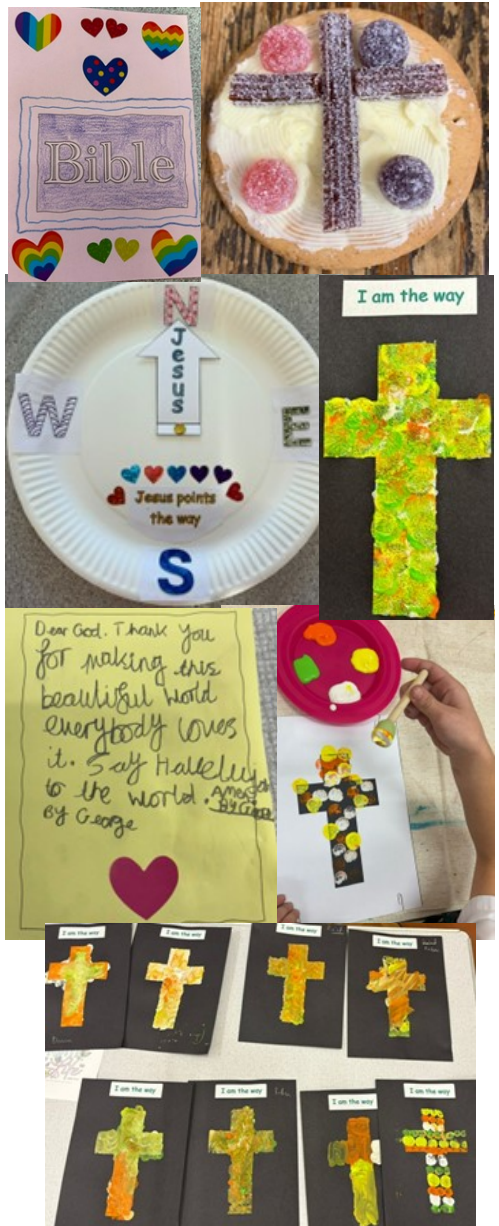
With the days growing shorter and the evenings getting dark so quickly, it was good to have November's Messy Church to brighten a cold, dull day! We had lots of exciting things to do this month and there were lots of families who came along to join in the fun!

We continued with the theme that we started in September which is the "I am..." sayings of Jesus and for November our topic was Jesus' saying: "I am the way, the truth and the life". Dennis told us an exciting story about "The Way" and we followed it up with lots of brilliant crafts. The children made model compasses showing that Jesus points our way in life. We followed this up with a "road ahead" puzzle where the children had to figure out which pieces kept them on the road towards Jesus and which pieces were distractions. As always the food craft was the favourite especially as it was a well iced biscuit!

Our December meeting on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December will be our Christmas Messy Church** and will be at the Methodist Church as usual from 3.30pm – 5.45pm. We will have our traditional nativity scene and Messy Church Christmas tea. So do come along and join us!

Messy Church is free but we welcome donations. Please contact Wendy if you would like to come to December's meeting on: [wendymeldrum@gmail.com](mailto:wendymeldrum@gmail.com). It is useful for us to know who is coming so we can cater for the crafts and Messy Church Christmas tea.

Everyone is welcome ... do come along and join in the fun!



**Janette and John Noonan**

Thank you to all those who helped and visited our coffee morning on 30th November. All monies raised will go to Mothers Union projects at home and abroad.

December meeting:

11th December at 11.00am - Advent meditation led by Pam Rastall in the Breakspear Room followed by 12.00pm Corporate Communion in St Lawrence Church.

Contact Branch Leader Jill Matthews on 07966887380 or email [matthewsjill2410@gmail.com](mailto:matthewsjill2410@gmail.com)

Greetings from John and Janette Noonan, now living at Eaton Bray (near to Holly and family and our son Ross & wife, Suzie).

We would like to wish all our friends from Abbots, Kings Langley and Bedmond Season's Greetings. We hope to see many of you in the run-up to Christmas but to those we don't, we wish you happiness and health for Christmas and the New Year.

We will not be sending individual cards this year due to all the things we need to do in our new home, and will be donating the money to Charity instead.

*Janette and John*

**Chipperfield Choral Society**  
 Patrons: Emma Bell, Delia Meehan Musical Director: Sheila Cornall

**Chipperfield Sings Christmas**



Conductor **Sheila Cornall**  
 Soprano **Ali Ponsford-Hill**

Saturday 7th December 2024  
 3pm and 7pm

**St Paul's Church, Chipperfield WD4 9BQ**

**Tickets: £18** (under 17: £5)

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DXMN> or by QR code.  
 Alternatively, call the Box Office on 01923 400520.



Reg. Charity No.: 288170 [www.chipperfieldchoral.co.uk](http://www.chipperfieldchoral.co.uk)

**Free Entry**



West Herts Hospitals Charity  
 Charity no. 1052210



**Christmas Fete Fundraiser**  
 for **Breast Cancer**  
 'Savi Scout' Equipment

Help fund a ground breaking surgical guidance system that utilises radar technology to precisely target and remove cancerous breast tissue, benefitting patients in your West Herts community.

Raffle, knitted toys, games, cakes, face painting, music, singing, Elves, food & drink.

7th December  
 11am—1:30pm  
 Baptist Church Hall  
 School Mead  
 Abbots Langley WD5 0LA

**Free Entry**

## Malawi

We have some exciting events coming up next year and we will publish these along with dates and times in the January edition of Outlook. However, we do have one date for January for you to put in your diaries and that is our annual **SING A LONG!** So please put the following in your new 2025 diary:

**MALAWI PROJECT SING A LONG SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY at 6.30PM IN ST LAWRENCE CHURCH HALL.**

Further details including the film chosen will be in January's edition of Outlook.

Make sure the date is in your diary so you don't miss all the fun!



## Nine Lessons and Carols

The very popular Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday 22nd December at 6.30pm in St Lawrence Church. All are very welcome to attend and please do stay for mulled wine and mince pies, which will be served in the hall after the service.



## Breathing Space

There will be no Breathing Space in December. The next one will be on 5th January 2025 at 5pm in St Lawrence Church.

## IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, IS IT?

**Speaker: The Revd Peter Waddell,**

Frank Capra's 1947 film *It's a Wonderful Life* is perhaps the classic Christmas film. The story of George, Mary Clarence, Mr Potter and the little community of Bedford Fall is much loved. Yet, there are dark shadows in it too, and much food for thought. What, if anything, does it have to do with the Gospel? Find out more in this fascinating exploration of the theologies behind the film with the Revd Peter Waddell.

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

Time: 7:00pm - 8.30pm

St Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard, St Albans, AL1 1BY (in the Alban Room).

Cost | £10 (£6 students)

### How to Book:

Please call the Learning Administrator on **01727 890212** (*Monday to Friday 9.30am – 3pm term time*) or the Box Office **01727 890290** (*Monday to Sunday*).

**Tickets will be on sale until 12noon on the day of the event.** Please ensure that you provide a current email address when you book.

## Parish People

JUDY ROE (nee Grinham) MBE Part 2

The effect of winning an Olympic Gold Medal had a huge impact on Judy's life. There were paparazzi outside her front door, endless invitations to open events, present things, speak at lunches and dinners and give swimming demonstrations. All the fees went to the Amateur Swimming Association as otherwise Judy would have lost her amateur status and could no longer compete. It was overwhelming for a basically shy person.

Judy decided to change her stroke for a while and started to compete as a freestyle swimmer, again reaching the top two of the British rankings. She swam in competitions in Germany, China and Russia as a freestyler but during the trip to China she was asked to do a back stroke race. To her great surprise she equalled the world record although she had not been training on that stroke. She was the Ladies' captain of the English team and during this visit she was able to see something of China and met the Chinese Premier Chou en Lei. Judy was also invited to do a four-week tour of South Africa which was extended by another six days so that she could compete in the South African Championships in which she won two events. She also really enjoyed being in the sun as opposed to a freezing English winter. While in South Africa Judy realised that swimming could not go on running her life. The training was soul destroying and she had missed out on all the normal teenage activities. From 12 years old until 19 years her whole life had been



dedicated to swimming. Her ambition became centred on one final effort to add both the Empire and European backstroke titles to her Olympic success. At the Empire Games Judy won two gold medals and set a new World Record. The European Games followed in which she won silver and bronze for freestyle events, much to her delight, and then the gold medal for the backstroke. The next few months were the most indecisive of her life as she knew that she should retire but couldn't imagine a life without swimming.

Judy became the first woman in any sport to hold Olympic, Commonwealth and European gold medals at the same time. She did a series for the BBC Sportsview Unit and was then approached by a film company to play a part in a film, Operation Bullshine, as they wanted to use the Judy Grinham name. The studio took 'glamour' photos and the fact that she was in the film gave it a lot of publicity. The film starred Ronald Shiner, Donald Sinden and Dora Bryan, however, filming did not attract her as a career, but she had earned good money which gave her time to think. On the eve of her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, in March 1959, Judy



announced her retirement. The following morning the Daily Express announced that she had joined their staff as a trainee journalist to cover swimming. She also visited schools who had built swimming pools and developed a brand of swimwear for children. She appeared on Desert Island Discs with Roy Plumley in 1959 and published her autobiography 'Water Babe' in 1960.



*Judy meeting the Chinese Premier Chou en Lei*

At 20 she became engaged to a local journalist, married at 21 and had two children, a son when she was 22 and a daughter at 23. In hindsight she feels that she married too early as she really had had no life experiences and certainly had had no time to gain experience with men. So she began the 'burying' of Judy Grinham the celebrity. She didn't want her children to be known as 'Judy Grinham's children' and over the years has become more and more reticent and reluctant to talk about her amazing achievements during her teenage years. She decided that she needed to look forward and leave the swimmer behind otherwise the rest of her life would be an anti-climax.....



*Judy after her swimming career*

*Part 3 to follow – Life after swimming, Charity Fundraiser, MBE award*

*By Brenda Southorn*

## From the Vicar

November was not a great month for the Church of England.

The Archbishop of Canterbury resigned in disgrace – something quite unprecedented – and many are calling for several more bishops, and swathes of other clergy, to do the same.

Behind it all lies a catalogue of awfulness. It begins back in the Seventies and Eighties with savage beatings of boys by a sadistic pervert, John Smyth, who posed as a respected spiritual leader on youth camps. His crimes became known to a group of Church of England ministers, who then covered it up. Who thought, in the words of one, ‘it would do the work of God immense damage if this was made public.’ They shipped Smyth off to Africa, without properly warning the Africans, and so he continued to beat and flog for decades. Black boys, perhaps, don’t count quite so much. One died in circumstances that have never been properly investigated.

When in 2013 Smyth came back on the Church of England radar again, when an English victim made a formal complaint, nothing really happened. It was – sort of – passed to the police (whose own failure to pursue Smyth also merits inspection), and then, pretty much, dropped. There was no real interest in what the police were doing, no loud alarm bells rung in Africa, no real care for the victims here. And now, in a pathetic final twist, it has been suggested that the Church might not even offer Smyth’s victims

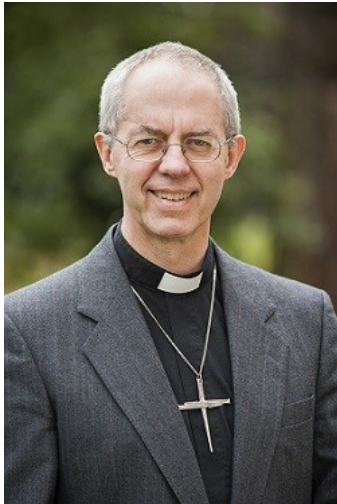


compensation, because apparently he had nothing to do with us. Even if that were true, which it isn’t, it completely ignores the cover-up, which allowed that abuse to go on, which told victims they did not count, and which was carried out by Church of England clergymen.

It was *not*, incidentally, carried out by Justin Welby. It will take some time for the dust to settle, and for it to be clear quite how much censure the Archbishop personally deserves. Those who say that he withheld information from the police are incorrect; those who say that he lied have yet to prove their point. No doubt there is much to criticise in how he, or Lambeth Palace, handled the Smyth case. No doubt either that as the man at the top, he bears responsibility for the Church’s generally woeful approach to abuse over the decades. He was right to resign. Still, historians in calmer times will judge that he was far from the worst Archbishop we have ever had. For it to be his tenure that ends in ignominy is rough justice indeed.

There is however a danger in focussing too much on Justin Welby. The issues raised by the Smyth case go *far* beyond him. We need to ask what it is about the Church that makes us especially

vulnerable to predators (not, of course, that abuse is unknown elsewhere – far from it – but there does seem to be a lot of it in the Church). There’s a whole mixture of factors in play here. To name but a few: our susceptibility to strong, charismatic leaders, and our willingness to bend the rules for them; our habit of believing the best of people, sliding into naïveté; a fascination in some quarters with blood and suffering; a repressive approach towards human sexuality; the belief in an angry, punishing patriarchal God; confusion about what forgiveness means, and the tendency to allow it to eclipse the need for justice. It’s a dangerous cocktail, and a proper response to abuse within the Church will involve a fairly sharp audit of all these things.



*Justin Welby*

And then of course there is the whole theology contained in that revealing remark by one of those clergy who knew about Smyth, and chose to conceal it: ‘it would do the work of God immense damage if this was to be made

public.’ Where to begin? What work of God could possibly require allowing hideous abuse to continue? If the speaker meant that people might leave the Church, what is the justification for believing that *that* is all God is interested in, all He is working for? Do we think His work is *not* about justice, and healing, and restoration? And what kind of God needs a group of vicars to act as his wingmen, looking out for His interests and defending Him against the wicked world? Not the God made flesh in Jesus Christ, who made it perfectly clear on the Cross that self-defence was not among his priorities – let alone the reputation of a religious institution.

There is some very bad theology at work here, theology that needs a good purge regardless of who happens to occupy the seat of Canterbury. And yet, to speak of theology – whilst it is genuinely important – is in a way to over-complicate matters. In essence, the John Smyth case is really, really simple. That man was a vicious criminal, guilty of many counts of actual of grievous bodily harm, and in Africa quite possibly of homicide. The people who knew about and who withheld that information from the police were accessories after the fact, and could have been charged with conspiracy to prevent the course of justice. We may be the Body of Christ, one, holy, catholic and apostolic ... but we’re also just another human institution, subject to the same sins, and the same laws, as everyone else. If this awful month for the Church teaches us that lesson, that at least is one brand snatched from the burning.

*Peter*

## Pockets of Light

On Saturday 9th November 2024, after a year of planning, the East, West and South elevations of St Lawrence were transformed using external lighting. The Pockets of Light Project was delivered by Kristina Allison who is a senior lighting designer at Atkins of London and chair of the Society of Light and Lighting's education committee. Kristina has 17 years experience of working in the industry.

Kristina visited several local schools in our area and gave the pupils a chance to create designs to be brought to life on the outside of St Lawrence. They were given templates of the elevations and a lesson on what sort of thing might be possible. The theme was Remembrance. Four winning designs were chosen and then as the sun set on 9th November the four winning designs became visible.

Hundreds of people from all around the village came to have a look and also enjoy a cup of hot chocolate. All donations for the hot chocolate were for the Friends of St Lawrence. The event was supported by the Abbots Langley Parish Council and Warner Bros. The schools involved were Parmiter's, St Michael's and Future Academies.

*Photos taken from the Pockets of Light event are on page 2.*

## Subscriptions for 2025

Thank you to all our readers who subscribe to Outlook and have their copy delivered to them. We hope you have enjoyed reading it every month and supporting our two churches in this way throughout 2024. We are now inviting you to renew your subscription. 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 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.

The details are:

Sort code: 30 99 21

Account No: 01540225

Type of Account - Business

Name of Account: Abbots Langley PCC - St Lawrence & Church of the Ascension RCN 1130597.

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*

# Bedmond Bells WI

Autumn is rolling into winter, and we are starting to look to the new year and are finalising our programme for 2025.

Our November meeting was a little different from usual as we held a Craft Evening, with several outside crafters attending, as well as several of our members having tables and one of our own. In addition, we had a craft activity for those members who wished to participate. We had a good attendance, with members bringing friends along, and the whole evening was really enjoyable. Because we found it so successful, we might arrange another later next year. All in all, a good evening.

For our December meeting, we will be entertained by a DJ playing songs we all recognise and enjoy and with seasonal refreshments.

In January, 2025 we will have Nik Pringle from the Police Historical Society talking to us – always interesting, maybe murder and mystery in Hertfordshire – who knows!



We are planning to hold three Community Cafes on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> March in the Tin Church, with soup, a filled roll, cake and tea or coffee, from 12pm to 2pm all for £5.00. We hope you will join us.



Our Friday Craft Group in the Tin Church continues to thrive. It is open to everyone, so do drop in, 10am to 12pm.



For further information about any of our activities, do contact us as below –

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

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

**Local Independent  
Funeral Directors**  
Working for Local People



**J & S Funeral Service** is committed to providing professional, compassionate and dignified funeral services at very competitive prices. Our funerals can be tailored to suit individual requirements, from the more elaborate cortege with horse drawn hearse to a simple eco funeral, and all receive the same high level of personal service and attention to detail.

We provide:

- ♦ a personal and professional 24 hour service;
- ♦ accessible office with car parking at front of premises;
- ♦ a private Chapel of Rest;
- ♦ funeral services for the whole of the West Herts area;
- ♦ services for all faiths and denominations;
- ♦ home arrangements, if preferred;
- ♦ Golden Charter pre-paid funeral plans;
- ♦ motor and horse drawn hearses;
- ♦ floral and monumental tributes.

17 School Mead, Abbots Langley WD5 0LA  
Tel: 01923 262939 (24 hours)



## Phil Davis

Professional, independent advice  
for all your holiday and travel needs  
ABTA Bonded ~ ATOL Holder

**Tel: 01494 415010**

phil.davis@thepersonaltravelagents.co.uk

### Caroline Freeman BSc Hons & Licentiate in Acupuncture

Traditional Chinese Medicine & Five Element  
Acupuncturist  
Acupuncture for both physical and emotional  
support & balance  
Free 15-minute phone consultation to discuss  
any symptoms you are experiencing and  
answer any questions you have.

07590 528645

caroline@healinghandsacupuncture.co.uk  
<https://www.healinghandsacupuncture.co.uk>

### Penny Waterman School of Dance

Children's Ballet Classes



In St Lawrence's Church Hall, Abbots Langley  
for ages 2 to 8 years  
Saturday mornings  
9.00 – 9.30am Ages 2 - 4 years  
9.40 – 10.10am Ages 5 - 8 years

**Tel: 01727 858632**

**Email: [pswd@pennywaterman.com](mailto:pswd@pennywaterman.com)**  
**[www.pennywaterman.com](http://www.pennywaterman.com)**

### Mandy Thomas Experienced Private Carer DBS certificate and fully insured

Assisting in the home.; personal care; doctors/  
hospital appointment; planning/cooking meals; trips  
out; shopping trips; experienced hairdresser.

**Please call me 07725891029**

### We can buy your lock up garage now.

Are you asset rich and cash poor?  
You can release equity without moving.  
Easy to arrange.  
Quick decision & payment.  
07860 321180 anytime.

### Abbots Langley Gardening Society

[www.algs.org.uk](http://www.algs.org.uk)  
FOR ALL YOUR GARDENING NEEDS  
Shop open all year, monthly Social Evenings  
Newsletters, Outings, 2 Shows, discounted seeds  
**CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO JOIN?**  
Jane Lay (Sec) - 01923 447281

**GARSTON TV & RADIO**  
**FOR ALL YOUR DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL  
SALES, SERVICES & REPAIRS**  
**YOUR LOCAL EURONICS DEALER**  
74 HIGH STREET, ABBOTS LANGLEY  
Tel - 01923 263738

**Meeting Rooms for Hire**  
**Church Hall (Fully equipped kitchen)**  
**Breakspear Room (Basic kitchen facilities)**  
**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	<a href="mailto:bedmondvillagetaskforce@gmail.com">bedmondvillagetaskforce@gmail.com</a>
Bell Ringing	Phill Higgs (440676)
Bowling Club	off Langley Road (alongside the Scout HQ)
Breakspeare Community Pre-School	(by Tannerswood School) (274483)
Brownies, Rainbows and Guides	<a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested">www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested</a>
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	<a href="http://www.abbotscc.hitssports.com">www.abbotscc.hitssports.com</a>
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 <a href="mailto:chair@abbotslanglescouts.co.uk">chair@abbotslanglescouts.co.uk</a>
Langleybury Scout Group	<a href="mailto:5thnwscouts@gmail.com">5thnwscouts@gmail.com</a>
Youth FC	Tim Denyer (270563)

**GPS PRINTWORKS**

**We have moved to:  
Unit 7 Mowat Industrial Estate  
Watford WD24 7UY**



***For all your printing needs....***

**Tel: 01923 242128  
Kevin: [sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk](mailto:sales@gpsprintworks.co.uk)  
Lea: [studio@gpsprintworks.co.uk](mailto:studio@gpsprintworks.co.uk)**

## 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.

Last month in Outlook I quoted from the Church magazine of 1901 which talked about a meeting called on July 18<sup>th</sup> 1901 to consider building a Lych Gate as a fitting memorial to Queen Victoria. This month I will I can give you an update on what happened next.....

### THE MEMORIAL TO QUEEN VICTORIA

*As announced in last months' Magazine, it was decided at a public meeting that the local Memorial to her late Majesty should take the form of a Lych Gate at the entrance to the churchyard. The subcommittee appointed for the propose are making enquiries as to the style of Lych Gate which will be suitable and as to the cost there-of. In a short time sketches will be hung both in the Church Porch and in the Post Office, which will give some idea of the general effect. Sometime during the present month circulars will be send to all houses in the Parish, asking for subscriptions, and it is sincerely hoped that all inhabitants will contribute something, however small it may be, for the erection of the Lych*

*Gate, which will be not only a great ornament to the village but which will also hand down to future generations the memory of a good and great Queen.*

And so the following month there was a report on the next steps....

### THE LYCH-GATE MEMORIAL TO QUEEN VICTORIA

*Mr High, the hon. Secretary, asks us to say that he will in the course of the first fortnight of the present month call to receive the subscriptions of those who have promised them to the above. Although nothing has been heard lately of the scheme yet it is still going on. Mr Kinneir-Tarte of the St Albans, an architect who has had considerable experience with this kind of work, is making a design in accordance with the sum of money which we have promised, and we hope that before long the work may be set in hand.*



Carol Higgs



# A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

## Celebrate a Greener Christmas

Find ways to make your Christmas festivities both a joyous celebration of Christ's coming and environmentally conscious.

Explore A Rocha UK's twelve tips for a greener Christmas at:  
[arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas](http://arocha.org.uk/our-twelve-tips-for-a-greener-christmas)

For more eco tips visit:  
[arocha.org.uk/wild-christian](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:vicar@abbotslangley.org.uk)

**Curate: The Revd. Helen Neville**  
Mobile: 07718 172642  
Email: [curate@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:curate@abbotslangley.org.uk)

### THE CHURCH OFFICE:

High Street  
Abbots Langley  
WD5  
Tel: 01923 261795  
Email: [adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk](mailto:adminstlawrence@abbotslangley.org.uk)  
Website: [www.abbotslangley.org.uk](http://www.abbotslangley.org.uk)

## The Friends of St Lawrence

**CHRISTMAS WREATH  
FESTIVAL:  
ST LAWRENCE CHURCH  
SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER:  
10.30AM – 4PM  
SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER:  
12PM – 4PM**

**Do come along to the Christmas Wreath Festival and enjoy the wonderful creations made by schools, youth and church organisations and businesses throughout the village.**

Make sure you put the dates in the diary and come and support this wonderful event put on by the Friends of St Lawrence. There will be hot drinks and mince pies on sale. The entrance to the Festival is free but donations are welcome. All funds collected will go towards the repair and maintenance of the ancient church building of St Lawrence. **If you would like to make a wreath for display or know an organisation or business that would, please see the information on the poster printed in this magazine or contact [wendymeldrum@gmail.com](mailto:wendymeldrum@gmail.com).**

## **CHRISTMAS WREATH FESTIVAL MAKE AND DISPLAY A WREATH!**

**This is a fundraising event by the Friends of St Lawrence.**

**The idea is that local schools, organisations and businesses in the village as well as individuals will create their own wreath that will then be displayed in St Lawrence Church over the weekend of 14/15 December.**

## WREATHS

These can be any shape and design, and decorated with greenery, fabrics, recycled materials or whatever you choose... your creation will only be limited by your own imagination!!

- The wreath must not be larger than 50cm
- Charge for entry £5
- Conventional copper rings wreath frames will be available to purchase if you prefer a guide. See contact details below.
- Wreaths can be accompanied by a small leaflet or business card to promote your school, organisation or business during the Festival.

## REGISTER

- **Please contact Wendy Meldrum to register your interest in participating in the Festival on [wendymeldrum@gmail.com](mailto:wendymeldrum@gmail.com)**
- **Last date for registering is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

## DELIVERING AND COLLECTING WREATHS

- Christmas Festival Wreaths should be delivered to St Lawrence Church between 2pm and 6pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December or by prior arrangement.
- Wreaths should be collected after the Festival on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 10.30am – 12.00pm or by prior arrangement.

Please contact Wendy Meldrum on [wendymeldrum@gmail.com](mailto:wendymeldrum@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



# THE WATFORD BAND

PRESENTS  
A CONCERT CELEBRATING

## Christmas

Friday 6th December 2024 @ 7.30 pm  
St Lawrence Church  
High St, Abbots Langley, WD5 0AS

We are featuring our development band  
**Brass Beats**

The concert begins at 7.30 pm.  
Adults £10 | Children Free  
Tickets are available to buy at the door.  
Buy in advance through Ticketsource:  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/watfordband>  
Contact 07796 175838 to buy tickets.

<https://www.watfordband.org.uk>  
Registered charity no. 1108301



# Christmas Wreath Festival



## ST LAWRENCE CHURCH ABBOTS LANGLEY WD5 0SG

Come and see amazing wreaths on display in our beautiful village church. Wreaths designed and made by local schools/organisations/businesses

SAT: 10.30 – 4PM:  
SUN: 12 – 4PM

This is a fundraising event for  
**THE FRIENDS OF ST LAWRENCE**  
Entry: Free ; Donations welcome  
**TEA / COFFEE & SEASONAL  
REFRESHMENTS**

Wreaths to purchase will be available

**Saturday 14 December**  
**Sunday 15 December**



# Christmas Services & Events

All are held in St Lawrence Church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 22nd December 3.00pm  
Bedmond Christmas Carols  
The Church of the Ascension (Tin Church)

Sunday 22nd December 6.30pm  
Nine Lessons and Carols Service

Tuesday 24th December  
1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.00pm  
Candlelight Service

Tuesday 24th December 11.00pm  
Midnight Mass  
The Church of the Ascension (Tin Church)

Tuesday 24th December 11.45pm  
Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25th December 9.30am  
Christmas Day Service

Wednesday 25th December  
11.30am Christmas Day Service  
The Church of the Ascension (Tin Church)

**Deadline for all content for January Outlook is Friday 13th December**