

In Our Prayers This Week

Prayer for 2nd Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and Saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Blessing for the Virgin Mary's

May the love of the Holy Family surround you. May the joy that was Mary's refresh you. May the faithfulness that was Joseph's encourage you. May the peace of the Christ-child fill your lives.



Please remember before God those who have asked for our prayers

<i>Those in acute need</i>	Fr David Michaels	Stephanie
Hillary Bardsley	Maggie Rees-Oliviere	Yves
(baby) Jude Bonnet	Mary Reeve	<i>Those in long-term need</i>
Lily Cameron	June Scully	Vincenzo Blandini
James Clark	David Strong	Theo Bulkai
George El Khoury	Jill Traynor	John Cantlie
Geraldine Henry	Bob	Joan Davies
Gina Hrela	Edward	Annie Redmile
Joan Jackson	Michael	James Worsley
Fiona McWatters	Sebastian	Conor
Anna Messim		

and for all who have died recently

Ann Bradley	Leo Koymans	Elisabeth (Lys) Millership
Antoinette Tartton-Cooper		Raymond von Drehle

and for all those whose anniversary of death falls at this time

David Wainwright, 8 th December	Jo Harriman, 8 th December
Josephine Hamilton, 9 th December	Richard Lamping

St MARY ABBOTS CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Website: www.smaw8.org

The Parish and Vicarage offices are open from 10am – 5pm

Vicar: Mthr Emma Dinwiddy Smith	vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 6032
Associate Vicar: Fr Christopher Rogers	assocvicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0203 479 4737
Curate: Mthr Alice Ormondroyd	on maternity leave	
Churchwardens: Guy Heald	guyheald@hotmail.com	
Ed Warrick	er@smaw8.org	
Vestry: Simon Fitter (Head Virger)	virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 5136
Assistant Virger: Martina Sadovska	children@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
Parish Office: Petter Kringberg	parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 2419
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St Mary Abbots Centre: Adam Norton	centremanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 8885
Children's Work Admin: Martina Sadovska	children@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
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Friends of St Mary Abbots: Steve Atack	friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk	07585 705 281



ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 5th December 2021

*The church is open daily from 8.30am to 6pm
and from 10am - 6pm on Saturday*

We would encourage you to continue with social distancing practices, such as wearing a mask, maintaining 2m distance, using the Track & Trace forms on the table by the door or NHS App and using hand sanitiser when entering the church, in order to protect and reassure those at greater risk.

Please respect the area at the front South of the church (under the lectern by the Holland Chapel), which has been set aside for those who prefer to remain masked and retain social distancing practices.

SUNDAY 5th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
9.30 am	Family Eucharist with Children's Nativity Play
11.15	Choral Matins
5.30 pm	Sung Evensong

MONDAY 6th December – Nicholas, Bishop

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
8.30 am	Bible Study (online)
12 noon	Informal Eucharist - Sunday on Monday
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer in Church

TUESDAY 7th December – Ambrose, Bishop

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer in Church

WEDNESDAY 8th December – Conception of the Virgin Mary

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon	Holy Eucharist
1.05 pm	Meditation Group
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer in Church

THURSDAY 9th December

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 am	School Service – all are welcome
2.30 pm	Rainbow Poetry Circle in vicar's parlour
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer in Vicar's Parlour
6.30 pm	Horatio's Garden Carol Concert

FRIDAY 10th December

8 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30am	Mini Abbots at St Mary Abbots Centre
12 noon	Holy Eucharist
1 pm	FOSMAS Christmas Fair
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer in Church

SATURDAY 11th December

12 noon	Middy Prayer
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer in Church

SUNDAY 12th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
9.30 am	Holy Eucharist with Baptism
11.15	Choral Matins
3 pm	Handel's Messiah (part 1)
5.30 pm	Handel's Messiah (part 1)

You can reserve a place on the 'what is on page' of our website
www.smaw8.org/what-is-on

Christmas Events & Services

Please reserve seats in advance

Via the 'what is on page' of our website
www.smaw8.org/what-is-on or call 0203 479 4731

Sunday 12th December (Ticketed £20)

3 pm Handel's Messiah (Part 1) -
5.30 pm Handel's Messiah (Part 1) -
Performance by candlelight with our professional choir and The Purcell Players

Sunday 19th December

3 pm Service of 9 Lessons and Carols
5.30 pm Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

Friday 24th December, Christmas Eve

4 pm Children's Crib Service
Children invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity
11 pm Midnight Mass by candlelight
with our professional choir

Saturday 25th December, Christmas Day

8 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)
9.30 am Festal Eucharist
11.15 am Festal Matins
5.30pm Christmas Eucharist at the Crib

Message from Mother Emma

First of all, my heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so very hard to make last Saturday's Christmas Fair such a warm and wonderful community event. The Events Team, co-ordinated by Leonora and with lots of help from the virgers and other parish office staff, did a marvellous job, and I know that they were very thankful for all the kind volunteers who turned up on the day to man the stalls, barbecue the sausages, serve mulled wine and help with the children's activities. Thank you, too, to everyone who donated, and to all those who came and sang carols, supported the stalls and generally made the church feel especially warm and welcoming.



The Advent Service of Light offered a completely different kind of church gathering, as we came together on Sunday evening in the candlelight to hear the familiar Advent carols and readings and to begin this solemn season of expectation and preparation for Christ's coming. Our thanks to Mark and to all the choir members, as well as to our readers.

This weekend we are specially looking forward to our Family Eucharist at 9.30 am, with the Nativity Play performed by church children, and we do hope that you will be able to come and support them as they tell the story of Christmas.

I am delighted to announce performances of **Handel's Messiah (part 1) on Sunday 12th December**, sung by our professional choir and accompanied by The Purcell Players. In order to maintain social distancing this annual much loved Christmas event will be performed twice at 3pm or 5pm. Tickets can be booked on our website:
www.smaw8.org/handels-messiah-2021



**HANDEL'S
MESSIAH (Part 1)**
*A concert by candlelight, with our professional choir and
The Purcell Players*
Sunday 12th December
3 pm or 5.30 pm
Tickets £20 (£10 under 16)

We are very conscious that many are anxious about the appearance of the omicron variant of Covid-19, and we shall be continuing only to use every other pew to maintain social distancing. We would seriously ask you to consider wearing a mask to protect and reassure the vulnerable among us, and may I remind you that the front section of the pews on the South (lectern) side of the church is reserved for those who wish to be masked throughout the service and to know that those around them will be too.

I do hope that you will all remain safe and healthy in this season of preparation and look forward very much to seeing you in church over the next few weeks.

As we look for your coming among us this Advent, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise, Amen [Common Worship Daily Prayer: Morning Prayer for Advent]

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

Silent Auction – closes Sunday 5th at 9pm

If you haven't already placed your bid on the Friends' Silent Auction then now is the final chance to do so before it closes at 9pm this Sunday. Prizes include a family photoshoot by Emmanuel Saint, afternoon teas, a Christmas tree, hotel stay, wine or champagne, paintings, books, a Christmas pudding and many other items. The money raised will go towards the fabric of the church and a plan to mark the 150th anniversary of the church next year. You can make your bid
www.smaw8.org/friends-of-st-mary-abbots-silent-auction

Christmas Gifts for Elderly & Vulnerable

We are looking for kind people to buy a gift for an elderly or vulnerable person in the area which will be delivered, with a specially prepared hamper, on Christmas Eve. We had been considering holding the usual lunch this year, but these plans have been abandoned due to the new variant. There is a sign-up form at the back of the church if you would like to take part – either buying a gift for a vulnerable person and or delivering the gifts to the residents and, if possible, spending a bit of time with them to give them much needed company. A list of gifts and people will be added shortly!

Thank you letter from Glass Door

Thank you to everyone at St Mary Abbots for raising an incredible £4,613 to date. You have also been a big part of hopefully making this the most impactful Sleep Out yet. So far, an incredible £183,376.77 has been raised to help ensure that those who turn to Glass Door are given some stability, shelter and hope this winter. Your fundraising comes at a time of continued uncertainty. We expect high demand for our services due to the continued fallout from the pandemic and changes such as the end of the eviction ban, furlough scheme and applications to the EU Settlement Scheme. We've also seen the reduction in Universal Credit and rising costs of living. Thanks to you, guests can continue to rely on us at their time of need.

The Mayor's carol concert on 15th December will raise funds for Glass Door – buy tickets from the 'what is on' page of our website or more details of the charity www.glassdoor.org.uk