

In Our Prayers This Week

Collect for 2nd Sunday 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. **Amen**

St Nicholas – A prayer for children

God of Joy and cheer, we thank you for your servant, St Nicholas. In loving the poor he showed us your kindness: in caring for your children he revealed your love. Make us thoughtful without need of reward so that we too may be a good follower of Jesus. **Amen**



Statue of St Nicholas, pintrest

Those in acute need

Laila Attia
Hillary Bardsley
Olivia Dawkins
Evelyn Ellison
Alexander Lamping
Monica Libby

Michael Turner

Buyile Phiri
Adam
Candice
Stephanie
Talia

Those in long-term need

Christopher Browne
Fr David Michaels
James Worsley
Conor

and for all who have died recently

Paul Davey Laura Fairhome Rose Kanyangarara
Marie-Christine Nibagwire Barbara Poole
Rosemary Rukmini Wesson

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

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

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

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ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH

150th Anniversary, 1872-2022

Sunday 4th December 2022

Welcome to St Mary Abbots

The church is open daily from 8.30am to 6pm
and 10am - 6pm on Saturdays & Bank Holidays

The clergy will be saying Evening Prayer in the quiet of their homes at **5.30 pm from 29th November until 13th December**. Please do light a candle and use the prayers accessed here: www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

SUNDAY 4th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
9.30 am **Family Eucharist with Nativity Play**
11.15 am **Choral Matins**
5.30 pm Sung Evensong

MONDAY 5th December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon **Informal Eucharist, Sunday on Monday**
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer in church**
6 pm Homeless Ministry

TUESDAY 6th December - Nicholas, Bishop of Myra

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon **Holy Communion (BCP)**
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer in church**

WEDNESDAY 7th December – Ambrose of Milan

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer in church**
7 pm **Hope & Homes Carol Concert (tickets available)**

THURSDAY 8th December – Conception of the Virgin Mary

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 am **School Eucharist - all are welcome**
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer in church**
6.30 pm **Horatio's Garden Carols (tickets available)**

FRIDAY 9th December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 Mini Abbots at St Mary Abbots Centre
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
1.05 pm **No Royal College of Music concert**
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer in church**
6.30 pm **Downe House Carol Concert**

SATURDAY 10th December

12 noon Holy Communion (BCP)
5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer in church**

SUNDAY 11th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
9.30 am **Holy Eucharist with baptisms**
11.15 am **Choral Matins**
5.30 pm Handel's Messiah (part 1)
Tickets available on-line

Message from Mother Emma

What a wonderful start to Advent we had last week, with the Victorian Fair on Saturday, followed by the beautiful Service of Light on Sunday! Thank you once again to all who worked so hard to make both of these possible. Pictures of the Fair can be seen in the previous events section of the 'what is on' page of the website.



As we travel through Advent, the church is now hosting a number of school and charity carol services or concerts and we are delighted to welcome so many visitors to the Church. It does mean that Evening Prayer is not being said in the church until 13th December, but please do pray with us at home, or join us on Zoom for Morning Prayer, or in church at 12 noon for our daily Eucharists.

This weekend is once again packed with action and events and wonderful acts of worship. At the 9.30 am Family Eucharist on Sunday, our parish children will be presenting their Nativity play, narrating the story of Christ's birth through the voices of those who were there. Martina and the children, together with their families, have worked so hard to bring this story alive for us as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas. Our regular services of 8 am BCP Eucharist, Choral Matins and Sung Evensong will follow the Advent theme, as this week the candle lit on our Advent Wreath remembers the role of the prophets in pointing the way to Christ.

Looking further ahead to next week, tickets are now selling fast for Handel's Messiah part 1, at 5.30 on Sunday 11th December, and we do hope you will join us. The shorter performance makes it ideal for people of all ages, and it will be followed by wine, mince pies and the opportunity to meet and chat with the singers and musicians. Tickets are £15 for adults and £10 for those under 16 and can be bought on the 'what is on' page of the website.

At this time of activity and excitement, we also remember in our prayers those for whom this Christmas may be a time of sadness or struggle. We continue to collect for the Foodbank, and you will have seen our appeals for Christmas gifts. Firstly, we are asking for warm hats, gloves and socks, wrapped for Christmas, which can be distributed by our homeless ministry team during December, and secondly, if you would like to contribute a present for someone attending the Christmas lunch (this year on Christmas Eve) being run by Lucille Briance and volunteers, please contact Leonora, who will pass your details on to Lucille.

People of God, awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children. [Common Worship: Prayer at the Advent Wreath, Advent 1]

With my love and prayers for a holy Advent, Mother Emma



Christmas 2022



Sunday 11th December (ticketed)

5.30 pm **Handel's Messiah (Part 1)**
Performance by candlelight with our professional choir and The Purcell Players. Tickets £15 and include a glass of wine & mince pie

Sunday 18th December

5.30 pm **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**
by Candlelight

Saturday 24th December, Christmas Eve

4 pm **Children's Crib Service**
Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity

11 pm **Midnight Mass by candlelight**
with our professional choir

Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day

8.00 am **Holy Eucharist** (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30 am **Festal Eucharist** *with our professional choir*
11.15 am **Festal Matins** *with our professional choir*
5.30 pm **Christmas Eucharist at the Crib**

St Mary Abbots Christmas Outreach Appeal

Fr Christopher and his team of faithful volunteers have been serving the homeless in our parish each Monday night, establishing relationships and offering warm drinks and soup. They would like to ask if you would buy warm hats, gloves or socks, and to wrap these, perhaps with a kind message to be distributed on Monday nights during December.

Meanwhile Lucille and her team of volunteers from many parishes in Kensington will once more be hosting a Christmas Eve lunch at the centre for vulnerable older residents from the borough. This is a welcome return after two years of delivering hampers and gifts to their houses. They are asking people to donate a gift to be opened at the lunch (to be bought, wrapped and delivered to the vicarage).

If you would be willing to buy a gift for either a homeless or vulnerable older member of the community - or both - then please contact Leonora.

St Mary Abbots – Open for Warmth and Peace

With the growing cost of living some people will find it hard to heat their houses. As you will all know we are open from 8.30 to 6pm for services, prayer and reflections, and already have a number of people spending time in the Church during the day. If you know of anyone who is in need of somewhere to go during the day, then please let them know that they will be welcome to come and sit and be warm and peaceful in the church.

Charity Carol Services at the church

If you would like to attend one of the two charity carol concerts this week tickets are available via the 'what is on' page of our website – this week Hope & Homes on Wednesday 7th and Horatios Gardens on Thursday 8th.

Food Bank

The food bank is still in need of your donations, especially in the colder months, so please bring any donations to the church and leave in the two food boxes. Please remember not to bring any fresh food or ready meals as we have no way of storing them. A full list can be found on our food bank page www.smaw8.org/food-bank-support.html Should you wish to donate financially donate directly on their website: www.dalgarnotrust.org.uk