

## In our Prayers this week

### Collect for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### Prayer for Nicholas by Amy Welborn

Loving God, we thank you for the example of Nicholas who fed the hungry, brought hope to the imprisoned, gave comfort to the lost and taught the truth to all. May we strive to imitate him by putting you first in all we do. Give us courage, love and strength so that like him we may serve you. **Amen**



St Nicholas, Pintrest

<i>Those in acute need</i>	Duncan Stafford Shaw	Long-term need
Rhoda Bowker	Sara Strong	Hillary Bardsley
Brian Cripps	Jill Traynor	Christopher Browne
Paul Fitch	Luke Thomas	Evelyn Ellison
June Hirschmiller	Adam	Juliet Fenwick
Emmanuel Kupa	Jean	Paul Proudman
Buyile Phiri	Luke	Michael Turner
James Philpot	Stephanie	
George Rabbett-Smith	Talia	

### *and for all who have died recently*

Camilla Peters      Emily Plane      James Worsley

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

David Wainwright, 8<sup>th</sup> December      Jo Harriman, 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Josephine Hamilton, 9<sup>th</sup> December      Richard Lamping

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

Church Website: [www.stmaryabbots.org.uk](http://www.stmaryabbots.org.uk)

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ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH  
KENSINGTON



## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

### Welcome to St Mary Abbots

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

4<sup>th</sup> December – 13<sup>th</sup> December

There will be **NO EVENING PRAYER** in church at 5.30 due to concert rehearsals. Please join the clergy by praying in the quiet of your home.

### SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30 am Holy Eucharist *with Nativity Play*  
11.15 am Choral Matins  
5.30 pm **Advent Service of Light**

### MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
8.30 am Bible Study via Zoom  
12 noon **Informal Eucharist** (Sunday on Monday)  
7 pm **The Mayor's Charity Christmas Carol Service** (*ticketed*)

### TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
12 noon **Holy Communion (BCP)**  
7 pm **Hope and Homes Carol Concert** (*ticketed*)

### WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> December – Nicholas, Bishop

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
8.35 am Bitesize Bible Group  
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**  
7 pm **London Land Management & Pelham Design Carol Concert** (*ticketed*)

### THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> December – Ambrose of Milan

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
9.30 am School Eucharist (all welcome)  
2.30 pm **Rainbow Poetry Group**  
6.30 pm **Horatio's Garden Carol Concert** (*ticketed*)

### FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> December – Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
9.30 Mini Abbots, St Mary Abbots Centre  
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**  
1.05 pm **No** Royal College of Music (resume 12 Jan)  
6.30 pm Downe House Carol Service (*private*)

### SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> December

12 noon **Holy Communion (BCP)**  
*with Requiem for Fr Noel Whale*

### SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30 am Holy Eucharist *with Baptisms*  
11.15 am Choral Matins  
5.30 pm **Handel's Messiah (part 1)** (*ticketed*)

See 'what is on' page of our website for concert tickets

## Message from Mother Emma

I start with a huge thank you to everyone who took part in our wonderful Victorian Christmas Fair last Saturday. It was a wonderful event, from the Victorian carol singers and Punch & Judy Show to the performance by students of the Natalia Kremen Ballet School and the Beatrix Potter Society stall, alongside stalls, food, drink and a warm and festive community feeling. We are so very grateful to all those who volunteered, donated or came along to support the event and to raise funds for the church's work and to John D. Wood & Co for sponsoring the event. Photos can be found on the 'Gallery' page of the website.



We were sad to bid farewell to Mother Alice on Sunday, but are glad that she will bring her many gifts to her new parish in Lancashire, building further on the experience she has gained here at St Mary Abbots. We presented her with a Home Communion set, for visiting at home, and also some vouchers for clergy outfitters(!), and we send her off with our love and prayers for her future ministry.

This Sunday, we mark the start of Advent, with two wonderful seasonal services – the children's Nativity Play at the 9.30 Eucharist, and then the beautiful, poignant and expectant Advent Service of Light, with a full choir and evocative readings by candlelight at 5.30pm. Please do join us.

Looking ahead, on the following Sunday at 5.30 pm, we have our annual performance of Handel's Messiah, part 1, with our professional choir and the Purcell Players. The shorter format of singing just Part 1 allows us to focus on the "Christmas" part of the story of Jesus, saving the narrative of his Death and Resurrection for Holy Week. It also means that it is short enough to be suitable for children as an introduction to classical music performances. This is always such a glorious musical event, and with mulled wine and mince pies included in the ticket price, we hope it will feel that the countdown to the birth of the baby Jesus has begun! Tickets are available via the 'what is on' website page or contact Leonora, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Our busy round of charity and school Carol Services is already underway, so please note that there will be NO service of Evening Prayer said in church between Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December inclusive. We resume on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>.

I hope that amidst all the preparations for Christmas, you are able to find a little time for holy reflection, as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Lord God, just and true, you make your salvation known in the sight of the nations; tune the song of our hearts to the music of creation as you come among us to judge the earth; through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen* [Response to Psalm 98, Common Worship Daily Prayer]

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

## Victorian Christmas Fair 2023



### Handel's Messiah (part 1) next Sunday

Tickets are still available for the Messiah (part 1) next Sunday via the 'What is on' page of the website or by emailing or calling Leonora. Tickets are £15 (or £10 under 16) and include a programme, glass of mulled wine & mince pie.



### Food Bank – Carrier Bags Needed

Do you have any large plastic or stiff paper shopping bags? The food bank donations are bagged up before being picked up on Thursday by volunteers and we have very few left. Any spare can be left in the food donation box or outside the vestry. If you would like to bring items for the foodbank these can be left in the two food boxes also but please remember not to bring any fresh food or ready meals as we have no way of storing them. A full list of items needed can be found on our food bank page [www.smaw8.org/food-bank-support.html](http://www.smaw8.org/food-bank-support.html)