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| ***IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:****We give thanks and pray for all that leads to unity among all Christian people,* *for the work of the Kensington Council of Churches,* *for Churches Together in England,* *the World Council of Churches,**and for all our neighbours in Christ of other churches and denominations.* *We pray for all who suffer throughout the world as a result of* *terrorism, violence, and oppression - of all faiths,* *Christians, Muslims, Jews – and of none.* *Please pray for the sick and those in distress, especially*WENDELL CADAGANJEAN CARR-GOMMDAPHNE CRAIGANNA MARIA DURANTEBETTY DOWDELLYVONNE ENROEDIOLWEN HASLAMVALERIE HARDWICKECHRISTIAN HERRMANNJOHN IRISHJAMIE MARSDENISABEL MILNERDIANA NICOLAUDREY RASKINCHARLOTTE REEVEJUNE SCULLYPATRICK SHINEMARGARETA SJOQVISTSUSANNA TODDJANET TOMESWENDY ASHER WORTH*Pray for all who have died recently*LEONARD HOLDSWORTHELEANOR CADAGANGWEN ROBSON*Pray for the repose of the souls of those whose year’s mind falls at this time.*  |

**St MARY ABBOTS CHURCH AND PARISH CONTACTS**

***Church Website:*** [**www.stmaryabbotschurch.org**](http://www.stmaryabbotschurch.org)

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***Vicar’s PA***  sophie.gaselee@stmaryabbotschurch.org 020 7937 6032

***Associate Vicar***

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***Associate Vicar with Special Responsibility for St Philip***

 The Rev’d David Walsh vicar@specr.org 020 7603 4420

***Associate Vicar with Special Responsibility for Christ Church***

 The Rev’d Mark O’Donoghue mark@christchurchkensington.com 020 7937 2966

***Honorary Priest***

 The Rev’d Peter Stubbs peter.stubbsuk@stmaryabbotschurch.org 020 8868 8296

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***Head of Fundraising:*** Karen Bryant

**ST Mary Abbots with Christ Church and St Philip ∙ Kensington**

**ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH**

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|  | **NEWSLETTER****for the week beginning****24th January 2016** |  |

***Sunday 24th 3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY***

 ***CHRISTIAN UNITY SUNDAY***

8.00am HOLY EUCHARIST of Septuagesima

 *First Lesson:* Romans 12. 16-21

 *Gospel:* Matthew 8. 1-3

 9.30am SUNG EUCHARIST

 **with *Children on Sunday* Groups**

 *Old Testament:* Nehemiah 8. 5-6, 8-10

 *New Testament:* 1 Corinthians 12. 12-26

 *Gospel:* Luke 4. 14-21

 *Preacher:* The Revd Jenny Welsh

 11.15am CHORAL MATINS

 *Old Testament:* Jeremiah 33. 6-9a

 *New Testament:* John 17. 11b-23

 *Preacher:* Monsignor Jim Curry,

 *Parish Priest, Our Lady of Victories RC Church*

 12.30pm HOLY EUCHARIST

 *Same Readings as 8.00am*

 6.30pm SUNG EVENSONG AND HOLY COMMUNION

*Old Testament:* Isaiah 49. 1-13

 *New Testament:* Matthew 19. 27-end

 *Preacher:* The Vicar,The Rev’d Gillean Craig

***Monday 25th The Conversion of St Paul***

 8.30am Morning Prayer

 1.05pm INFORMAL EUCHARIST ‘Sunday on Monday’

 5.30pm Evening Prayer

***Tuesday 26th St Timothy & St Titus***

 8.30am Morning Prayer

11.30am HOLY EUCHARIST – *Book of Common Prayer*

 5.30pm Evening Prayer

***Wednesday 27th***

 7.10am Morning Prayer

 7.30am HOLY EUCHARIST

*1.05pm Meditation Group*

 5.30pm Evening Prayer

***Thursday 28th St Thomas Aquinas***

 7.10am Morning Prayer

 9.30am SUNG EUCHARIST - St Mary Abbots School

 *all warmly welcome*

 5.30pm Evening Prayer

***Friday 29th***

 7.10am Morning Prayer

 7.30am HOLY EUCHARIST

 *1.05pm RCM Students Recital*

 5.30pm Evening Prayer

***Saturday 30th*** *Commemoration of Charles****,*** *King & Martyr*

 9.40am Morning Prayer

 10.00am HOLY EUCHARIST

 5.30pm Evening Prayer

***Sunday 31st CANDLEMAS SUNDAY***

8.00am HOLY EUCHARIST of Sexagesima

 *First Lesson:* 2 Corinthians 11. 19-31

 *Gospel:* Luke 8. 4-15

 **9.30am FAMILY EUCHARIST**

 ***with Preschool Childrens Groups***

 *Readsing* Malachi 3. 1-5

 *Gospel:* Luke 2. 22-40

 **11.15am CHORAL MATINS**

 *Old Testament:* 1 Chronicles 29. 6-19

 *New Testament:* Acts 7. 44-50

 *Preacher:* The Vicar, The Revd Gillean Craig

 12.30pm HOLY EUCHARIST *readings as at 8.00am*

 **6.30pm CANDLEMAS CEREMONIES, PROCESSION**

 **AND SOLEMN EVENSONG**

 *Old Testament:* Malachi 3. 1-5

 *New Testament:* Luke 2. 22-40

 *followed by* HOLY EUCHARIST

**TODAY IS CHRISTIAN UNITY SUNDAY**

We join with all our neighbours in Christ of every denomination and church in praying for and re-committing ourselves to a renewed determination to seek unity among all the Churches.

We are delighted to welcome as our Preacher at 11.15 Choral Matins, Monsignor **JIM CURRY**, the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Victories Church on Kensington High Street. Jim is the Mayor’s Chaplain this year, and those who heard him preach at the Civic Service will greatly look forward to his sermon. We greatly value our friendship and common witness with our Roman Catholic neighbours and Christians of all denominations.



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| **Our main local Unity Week celebration is tomorrow,****Monday 25 January** **at 7.15 at** **St Sarkis Armenian Church, Iverna Gardens** |  |

***SUPPORT RWANDAN REFUGEES***

*Marie-Christine Nibagwire’s works with a Rwandan Women refugees’ sewing project in Kenya. She has a selection of their vibrant, colourful & practical bags & aprons for sale. Her thanks to all those who have already purchased one – she still has more! Marie-Christine 07904 211 018, or* *saferefuge@hotmail.co.uk**. More details - [www.saferefugerwanda.org](http://www.saferefugerwanda.org/))*

St MARY ABBOTS RECYCLING CHRISTMAS CARDS

Don’t throw away your old cards – the Handicraft Group is delighted to recycle the cards (well the Old Masters, anyway). Deliver to the Vestry.

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|  | **ROYAL STATUE MOVED**One of the great – although often overlooked – treasures of our church is the ANGEL STATUE carved by HRH Princess Louise, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, as a memorial to two of her brothers Princes Alfred and Leopold. The best-known example of her work is the statue of her mother in front of Kensington Palace, that faces the Round Pond. We have long thought that the Angel was placed too far back against the pillar, so that it could not be properly appreciated. The conservator who worked on it during the works to the Resurrection Chapel in 2014 pointed out that the drapery and back of the wings are fully modeled and detailed – it was certainly intended to be seen in the round. At last we have moved it forward slightly so that it takes its proper place among the memorials of the Resurrection Chapel – and in a sense shares in  |

our daily offering of prayer and praise*. Further phases of work still remain*

 *to bring the chapel to its full glory: first the restoration of the reredos, and, eventually, the repainting of the ceiling, cleaning the walls and monuments, and re-instating of the tabernacle work to the stained glass windows.*

**This Thursday - St. Mary Abbots'  Book Club**

28th January at 2.30pm – this months book is **Andrew Marr’s** ***A SHORT BOOK ABOUT DRAWING*.** After the introduction and discussion we will enjoy a friendly and delicious tea.  Do you enjoy reading? New members welcome: please contact: [Ann\_Q@Hotmail.co.uk](https://btmail.bt.com/invalidurl.gif)  .

1.05pm Friday Lunchtime

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC STUDENT RECITAL**

We are indeed fortunate to be the chosen venue for these splendid free concerts. These talented young musicians cannot be praised too highly – this week: music for piano solo, Cello and Violin by HAYDN, SCRIABIN & FRANCK. There’s a flier with details of all the Recitals between now and Easter – take one for you and lots for your musical friends

***St PAUL’S CATHEDRAL NEWS:***

**INVITATION FROM THE DEAN -** Our Mother Church holds her patronal festival next Saturday 23rd January at 4.30pm. This great celebration of the Eucharist, presided over by the Bishop of London and sung by the Cathedral Choir, will be aimed especially for children and young people from churches and church schools. Doors will open at 3.30pm: all are welcome!

**INSTALLATION OF VICAR AS PREBENDARY -** We now have the date and time of Fr Gillean’s Installation to the Prebend of Caddington Minor in St Paul’s Cathedral: it will be on Sunday March 6th (Mothering Sunday, unfortunately) at 3.15pm Evensong. I’m sorry that as yet there are no further details – but all of course are warmly welcomed.

***NEXT SUNDAY 31st JANUARY***



**CANDLEMAS SUNDAY**

The **Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple,**

also known as the **Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

is February 2nd, Tuesday week, but we’re following the church’s recommendation of using the nearest Sunday fully to celebrate this

final climax of the cycle of Incarnation that stretches from

Advent through Christmas and Epiphany

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| Presentation - luttrellpsalter | **The 9.30am will be a****FAMILY EUCHARIST**With many of the roles and tasks undertaken by the younger members of our fellowship – see clergy to volunteer or find out more. |

**Then at 6.30 in the evening we hold our**

**SPECIAL CANDLEMAS CELEBRATION**

**as we gather in the Resurrection Chapel, for the Ceremonies of Light, then proceed via a powerful Candlelight Procession to**

**CHORAL EVENSONG**

a moving liturgy of light & great Candlemas music

sung by our combined professional & voluntary choirs*.*

**NEW YEAR – *YOUR* NEW ROLE IN THE LITURGY?**

One of the great privileges of the church is to assist in the proclamation of divine worship. We do this in many different ways, demonstrating that the offering of worship is something that we do together as the Body of Christ, not a performance by the clergy at which the laity form a passive audience. Readers, sidesmen, choir, bellringers, flower arrangers – all contribute to this central ministry. But we’re recruiting new members for a very particular group: we are looking for new servers for our serving team at the 9.30am service.  Perhaps you’ve never thought about sharing in this important and enjoyable ministry?  We’re particularly keen to have more adults in the team – we’ll be holding training sessions shortly. Speak to Jenny or Gillean

***PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION***

***It’s time to register now!***

**We’re gathering our annual preparation Confirmation courses:**

Graham, our Bishop of Kensington, is booked to administer this sacrament here on Wednesday 25th May. We take the process

of preparation very seriously, and offer a four-month course of weekly sessions exploring Christian faith and practice, starting in a couple

of weeks and extending through the crucial church seasons of

Lent, Eastertide, Ascension and Pentecost.

We prepare children from school year 5, about the age of 9+,

and we’ll have groups of children, teenagers and adults. Remember, no-one’s too old: we’re aware of many adults who have not been confirmed or who, even if they receive the Sacrament, have not gone

through this vital process. The weekly study and discussion groups explore the major themes of Christian belief and practice, so we may play our full part in the church’s life. To find out more, see the clergy – or, even better, talk to someone who took part last year.

To register: take one of the forms available in church or from the clergy, fill in & return to Vestry or Centre asap!

There are two meetings for those interested, both in church:

**Adults (say over 16s) on Tuesday 2nd February at 7.00pm**

**Children on Thursday 3rd February 3.45 – 4.45pm**

email *gillean.craig@stmaryabbotschurch.org*

**The Holy Season of Lent will be upon us sooner than we think!**

**Wednesday 10th February is ASH WEDNESDAY**

On this most solemn day all Christians turn again to God for forgiveness.

 **1.05pm SUNG EUCHARIST; 7.00pm SOLEMN EUCHARIST**

Both of these services include the famous ***ALLEGRI* Miserere**

**GWEN ROBSON RIP**

We now have the details of Gwen’s funeral: it is to be held at 12noon on Wednesday 3rd February, here at St Mary Abbots