

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

*Father we pray for those facing redundancy.
As they look to the future,
help them to look for fresh opportunities, for new directions.
Guided by your Spirit to walk in your paths.*

*Father you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you.
Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our
congregation to serve your people as Lay Ministers, Priests and Deacons*

*With Joy and Thanksgiving we celebrate the announcement,
as the Bishop Elect of London, of
the Rt Revd SARAH MULLALLY DBE
We pray for those to whom she currently ministers and for her safe move.*

Please intercede for those who have asked for our prayers
JOHN BIGNALL : FRIEDA BILGER
SARAH DEAL : FRANK GAME
TONY GORDON : BRIAN HARVEY
HILAL KIBBARA : LEO KOYMANS
ISABEL MILNER : AUDREY RASKIN
GEORGE STUART-RANCHEV
ALEXANDRA WATT : CAROLYN
GOHAR : JOANNA AND FAMILY

Please pray for all who have died recently
NIGEL LEYLAND : BILL KIRKPATRICK
JOHN ESCOTT : JACOB SEPULVEDA
JOAN MARTIN : SAMIR
JOAN SANCROFT

And for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time
JOYCE JOHNSTON (31 January)

Central Kensington Group Ministry
ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
for the week beginning
28th January 2018



Sunday 28th January **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

- 8.00am HOLY EUCHARIST
Epistle: Romans 13. 1-7
Gospel: Mathew 8. 23-34
- 9.30am **SUNG EUCHARIST**
with Children on Sundays Groups
Reading: Revelation 12. 1-5a
Gospel: Mark 1. 21-28
Preacher: Revd Preb Gillean Craig
- 11.15am **CHORAL MATINS**
Old Testament: 1 Samuel 3. 1-20
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 14. 12-20
Preacher: Revd Preb Gillean Craig
- 12.30pm HOLY EUCHARIST *readings as at 9.30am*
- 6.30pm **SUNG EVENSONG**
Old Testament: Jeremiah 1. 4-10
New Testament: Mark 1. 40-45
Preacher: Ven Stephan Welch,
Archdeacon of Middlesex

followed by HOLY COMMUNION

Monday 29th January

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
- 1.05pm INFORMAL EUCHARIST 'Sunday on Monday'
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday 30th January *Charles, King & Martyr*

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
- 11.30am HOLY EUCHARIST
- 5.00pm Reception of Body into Church
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday 31st January *Commemoration of John Bosco*

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
- 8.15am HOLY EUCHARIST
- 1.05pm *Meditation Group*
- 2.00pm Funeral Eucharist: Nigel Leyland RIP
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 1st February *Commemoration of St Brigid*

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
- 9.30am SUNG EUCHARIST OF CANDLEMAS
St Mary Abbots Wholeschool Service - All welcome
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

Friday 2nd February **PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE - CANDLEMAS**

- 8.00am Morning Prayer
- 8.15am HOLY EUCHARIST
- 1.05pm *Royal College of Music students' recital*
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

Saturday 3rd February **St Anskar**

- 9.40am Morning Prayer
- 10.00am HOLY EUCHARIST
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer

Sunday 4th February **SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

- 8.00am HOLY EUCHARIST
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11. 19-31
Gospel: Luke 8. 4-15

9.30am FAMILY EUCHARIST
with preschool Childrens Groups
All-age Address: The Rev'd Jonathan MacNeaney

- 11.15am **CHORAL MATINS**
Old Testament: Genesis 2. 4b-25
New Testament: Luke 8. 22-35
Preacher: Revd Canon Stephen Fielding
- 12.30pm HOLY EUCHARIST *readings as at 9.30am*

- 6.30pm **CANDLEMAS CEREMONIES, PROCESSION AND SOLEMN EVENSONG**
followed by HOLY EUCHARIST

St MARY ABBOTS CHURCH AND PARISH CONTACTS

Church Website: www.smaw8.org

- Vicar**
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- Churchwardens**
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- Safeguarding Officer**
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- Stewardship Secretary:**
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- Electoral Roll Officer:**
Sally Bessada er@smaw8.org
- Bellringers:**
David Holdridge Secretary david.holdridge@ntlworld.com 07904 954 959
- Friday Playgroup:**
playgroup@smaw8.org
- Friends of Sr Mary Abbots:**
friends@amaw8.org 07585 705 281
- Sr Mary Abbots Appeal:**
appeal@smaw8.org

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday 30 September 2018, the 41st Anniversary of his Ordination as Deacon and 40th as Priest, the Revd Preb Gillean Craig will retire from his office as Vicar of St Mary Abbots Kensington. Linda and he hope that you will be able to join us at 4.00pm for a service thanking God for all the blessings that we have received in our sixteen years here, followed by a Party. Children will be very welcome.

Where's Fr Jonathan?

He's taking a long-deferred post-Christmas break, as all the clergy are supposed to, and is refreshing body and soul on a ski slope somewhere.

Where's Fr Stephen?

Despite having had the jab, poor Fr Stephen has succumbed to a particularly virulent strain of influenza, and is still not at all well – do remember him in your prayers.

So The Vicar is trying to pick up the stuff that they normally do – be prepared for errors, omissions, infelicities etc.....

TODAY SUNDAY 28 JAN NEW MUSICAL PROVISION

9.30 SUNG EUCHARIST: the professional quartet, whose splendid singing graces 11.15 matins weddings & funerals, but not until recently our main Sunday service, will join forces with the voluntary choir to offer special music with anthems and motets by WILLIAM BYRD & EDWARD ELGAR

If you enjoy singing, this would be an excellent time to explore joining our voluntary choir. There is a potential range of involvements: the regular weekly 9.30 Sung Eucharist, the monthly 9.30 Sung Eucharists where the professional quartet joins and we offer more challenging music, and the roughly monthly Choral Evensong. And twice a year the really major sings: Bach's St John Passion and Handel's Messiah. For details, contact our Director of Music uglowmark@yahoo.co.uk

11.15 MATINS will have instead of the usual 4-part choir a **professional cantor** to lead the music and explore the under-valued repertoire of solo religious music – today a setting of the Jubilate by TOMKINS and the splendid 'O rest In The Lord' from MENDELSSOHN'S *Elijah*.

SPECIAL 6.30 SUNG EVENSONG TODAY

In the absence of Frs Jonathan and Stephen (see above), to enable the Vicar to be at St Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens, to assist in the Reception of the Body of Fr Bill Kirkpatrick*, the service will be conducted & sermon preached by our good friend, whom we greatly welcome:

The Ven STEPHAN WELSH, Archdeacon of Middlesex

* **Fr Bill Kirkpatrick** was the charismatic priest who following Fr Ken Leech developed the remarkable ministry to homeless young people in London at CENTREPOINT SOHO. Your Vicar worked closely with him there for six months before he went to theological college. Fr Bill retired to this area, working with people in great need in the Earl's Court area. He developed Alzheimer's and lived the last years of his life in Beatrice Place Care Home, visited regularly by your clergy.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE CRIB YET?

Between the Epiphany (January 6th) & Candlemas (February 2nd), the Resurrection Chapel altar is transformed into the Crib. It's accessible especially to children - and to the child in all of us, whatever our age, a focus for prayer and devotion, of simple awe that God is with us.



DALGARNO TRUST FOODBANK.

Thanks to all who support this vital service, seeing increased use every week. Please continue to support this work with regular donations – check the 'shopping lists' in church for what is needed. Pick-ups every Thursday. Especial thanks our co-ordinator **Alice Bulkai**

RAINBOW POETRY RECITAL 1.30 this Thursday 1st Feb

The subject will be "New Beginnings". All welcome - please bring along your favourite poems on this topic. Followed by afternoon tea.

FRIDAY MORNING PLAYGROUP

Children from birth to 4yrs (with a parent or two) warmly welcomed at our playgroup, now meeting again after the Christmas break, in StMA Centre, Vicarage Gate W8 4HN. Details from laurasyvester@mac.com

The new season of 1.05pm Friday Lunchtime is now well under way

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC STUDENT RECITAL

There's a flier with details of all the Recitals between now and Easter – take one for you and lots for your musical friends. You can eat your lunchtime sandwich, and there's tea & coffee.



KENSINGTON LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR

is available for all to see online. Last Wednesday we thanked all the shops & organizations who presented window displays **MAKING SPACE FOR HOPE** and Lady Arnold, HM Deputy Lieutenant, presented awards <http://www.smaw8.org/living-advent-calendar.html>



The Rt Revd SARAH MULLALLY DBE, will indeed be the 133rd Bishop of London!

Last Wednesday, the feast of the Conversion of St Paul, the Prebendaries of our cathedral church (including your vicar) met and obeyed our Gracious Sovereign's instruction and elected her. She will be Installed on May 12th – watch out for details & keep her in your prayers

JOHN ESCOTT RIP. Although known to very few of our present congregation, he has for decades been a major player in the Christian life of central Kensington. A faithful member of Allen Street United Reformed Church, and its skilled organist, he will be greatly missed. His Funeral will be held at his church at 4.00pm on 29 January, tomorrow. **Rest eternal grant to him O Lord : and let Light Perpetual shine upon him.**

THE FEAST OF CANDLEMAS



The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, aka the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary

falls on February 2nd, this Friday. This is the climax of the cycle of Incarnation Festivals that stretches from Advent through Christmas and Epiphany. We not only celebrate the feast on the day itself:

The Whole School Eucharist at 9.30am this THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY includes the Candlemas Play, precious to generations of St Mary Abbots children and families. The service is of course open to all.

Then next Sunday 4th February we hold our powerful

6.30pm SPECIAL CANDLEMAS CELEBRATION

One of the year's most dramatic and moving services. We gather in the Resurrection Chapel for the Ceremonies of Light, then proceed via a powerful Candlelight Procession to CHORAL EVENSONG. It's a moving liturgy of light with great Candlemas music sung by our combined professional & voluntary choirs. **Book the date now!**

PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

This year's Confirmation will be on Thursday 24th May.

We take the process of preparation very seriously, and offer a four-month course of weekly sessions exploring Christian faith and practice, starting very soon and extending through the crucial church seasons of Lent, Eastertide, Ascension and Pentecost. We prepare children from school Year 5, about 9+ in age, and we'll have groups of children, teenagers and adults.

Remember, no-one's too old: there are many adults who haven't been confirmed or who, even if they receive the Sacrament, have not shared in 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. See the clergy for more details.

There are two meetings for those interested:

Children THIS TUESDAY 30 January 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adults (say over 16s) on Tuesday 13th February at 7.00pm

email jm@smaw8.org



Dr JOAN MARTIN

Our beloved friend Joan has died at the great age of 102. She was known by all at St Mary Abbots and far beyond as a wonderful example to us all of self-giving Christian witness and service. As a junior doctor she dealt with one of the most horrific civilian tragedies of WWII, the Bethnal Green tube disaster, worked faithfully as a local GP and received the OBE for her remarkable work of swimming therapy with the disabled. Her funeral will be here at StMA on Thursday 15 February at 11.00am.

Rest eternal grant to her O Lord : and let light perpetual shine upon her

Easter is early this year: Lent is less than a fortnight away!

FEBRUARY 14th IS ASH WEDNESDAY

After Good Friday, this is the most solemn day of the church's year, when all Christians will want to reflect on their relationship with God and turn again to experience his mercy and forgiveness. Our main services are:

1.05pm SUNG EUCHARIST

7.00pm SOLEMN EUCHARIST

The music at both of these services will be led by our professional choir, and will include the famous **ALLEGRI Miserere**

A VITAL MINISTRY TO KENSINGTON HIGH STREET

But in addition to these familiar liturgical observances in church, we will once again be **talking to the streets.**

7.30 – 9.00am; 12.30 – 1.30pm; 5.00 – 6.00pm

At these three key periods throughout the day we will be outside the church, by the War Memorial, offering a prayer card and to sign the foreheads of all who want with the sign of the cross in holy ash.

YOU can share in this ministry: all members of the congregation who would like to join in, please speak to the clergy.

To make the Ashes we burn last year's Palm Crosses - so please bring yours from home and bring in or outside the Vestry asap.

THROUGHOUT LENT we keep this holy season as a time of renewing and deepening our knowledge of God, our Discipleship of Jesus, and our membership of his servant church. Our Lent Course will be rather unusual:

CONVERSATIONS IN LENT

The Vicar will hold conversations with people prominent in public life about their work, their convictions – and how these might intersect with our faith.

All on Thursday evenings at 7.30: Feb 22; March 1, 8, 15 & 22