

## In Our Prayers This Week

### The Alternative Collect for Advent 3

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Prayer for Musicians

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be with your servants who make art and music for your people, that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty; and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen  
The Calvin Institute of Worship



God, suspended in Clouds, creates light. Engraving by T de Leu

*Please remember before God those who have asked for our prayers*

Those in acute need	Sebastian Shaw	John Canelie
Margy Fitter	Alison Steel	Rev. Geoffrey Connor
Nicolas Hodge	Edward	Joan Davies
Gina Hrela	Michael	Leo Koymans
Joan Jackson	Harrison	Simon Portal
Mary Reeve	<i>Those in long-term need</i>	Annie Redmile
June Scully	Vincenzo Blandini	James Worsley
Hew Service	Theo Bulkai	

*and for all who have died recently*

Christopher Buckmaster	Pearl Collinson	Arthur Dawes
Eva Fraser	Andrew Gillespie	Tony Gordon
Wayne Matthews	Karl Julius Silchenstedt	Rae Whitehead

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

Anthony Howard, 19<sup>th</sup> December John Banks, 20 December

## St MARY ABBOTS CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Website: [www.smaw8.org](http://www.smaw8.org)

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

Vicar: Mthr Emma Dinwiddy Smith	<a href="mailto:vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk">vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	0207 937 6032
Associate Vicar	vacant	
Curate: Mother Alice Ormondroyd	<a href="mailto:curate@stmaryabbots.org.uk">curate@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	0203 479 4737
PA & events: Leonora Service, PA	<a href="mailto:pa@stmaryabbots.org.uk">pa@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	0203 479 4731
Churchwardens: Guy Heald	<a href="mailto:guyheald@hotmail.com">guyheald@hotmail.com</a>	
Ed Warrick	<a href="mailto:er@smaw8.org">er@smaw8.org</a>	
Parish Office: Petter Kringberg	<a href="mailto:parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk">parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	0207 937 2419
Vestry: Simon Fitter (Head Virger)	<a href="mailto:virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk">virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	0207 937 5136
Tom Mendel, Amanda McRae and Sam Kibble (assistant virgers)		
St Mary Abbots Centre: Adam Norton	<a href="mailto:centremanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk">centremanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	0207 937 8885
Children's Work Admin: Martina Sadovska	<a href="mailto:children@stmaryabbots.org.uk">children@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	
Safeguarding Office: Andrew Freestone	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@stmaryabbots.org.uk">safeguarding@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	
Stewardship Secretary: Emma Porteous	<a href="mailto:stewardship@stmaryabbots.org.uk">stewardship@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	
Electoral Roll Officer: Ed Warrick	<a href="mailto:er@stmaryabbots.org.uk">er@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	
Bellringing Secretary: David Holdridge	<a href="mailto:david.holdridge@ntlworld.com">david.holdridge@ntlworld.com</a>	07904 954 959
Friends of St Mary Abbots: Steve Atack	<a href="mailto:friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk">friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk</a>	07585 705 281



## ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Keeping the church open is dependent upon our maintenance of good practices including:

- Filling in a Covid Track and trace form at the main door, or using the NHS app which can be found on the notice board and inside the church.
- Sanitising our hands at the entrance
- Wearing masks inside the church
- Maintaining 2 metre distancing from others
- Following the one way system

### SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8 am	<b>Holy Eucharist (BCP)</b>
9.30am	<b>Holy Eucharist with children's Nativity readings</b>
11.15am	<b>Matins</b> <b>Preacher: Canon Thomas Mendel, St Mary the Virgin, Eastbourne.</b>
3.30	<b>The Messiah (part 1) with our professional choir and The Purcell Players</b>
6.30	<b>The Messiah (part 1) with our professional choir and The Purcell Players</b>

Numbers will be limited so please reserve a seat via Eventbrite: [www.smaw8.org/messiah-2020](http://www.smaw8.org/messiah-2020).

### MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> December – John of the Cross

10 am - 2pm	Church open for Private Prayer
12 noon	Midday Prayer in the nave

### TUESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> December

10 am - 2pm	Church open for Private Prayer
12 noon	Midday Prayer followed by <b>Holy Eucharist</b>

### WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> December

10 am - 2pm	Church open for Private Prayer
12 noon	Midday Prayer in the nave

### THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> December – O Sapientia, Eglantyne Jebb

9 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
10 am - 2pm	Church open for Private Prayer
12 noon	Midday Prayer followed by <b>Holy Eucharist</b>

### FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> December

9 am	Morning Prayer via Zoom
10 am - 2pm	Church open for Private Prayer
12 noon	Midday Prayer in the nave
6 pm	A Renaissance Christmas, Stile Antico £25. <a href="mailto:tickets@stileantico.co.uk">tickets@stileantico.co.uk</a>

### SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> December

10 am - 2pm	Church open for Private Prayer
12 noon	Midday Prayer in the nave

### SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8 am	<b>Holy Eucharist (BCP)</b>
9.30am	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>Preacher: The Rev'd Prof Peter Galloway, Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM The Queen</b>
11.15am	<b>Matins</b>
3.30	<b>Lessons and Choral Carols for Christmastide with our professional choir</b>
6.30	<b>Lessons and Choral Carols for Christmastide with our professional choir</b>

Numbers will be limited so please reserve a seat via Eventbrite: [www.smaw8.org/services](http://www.smaw8.org/services)

## Christmas Services & Concerts

- 13 December Holy Eucharist *with Children's Nativity readings*, 9.30  
Messiah (Part 1) 3.30pm & 6.30 pm  
*With our professional Choir and The Purcell Players*  
[www.smaw8.org/messiah-2020](http://www.smaw8.org/messiah-2020)
- 18<sup>th</sup> December Concert by Stile Antico, 6pm
- 20 December Lessons and Choral Carols for Christmastide. 3.30pm & 6.30pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> December ONLINE crib service, 4.30pm  
Midnight Mass *by candlelight, with our professional choir*. 11.30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> December Holy Eucharist (BCP). 8am  
Family Eucharist with choir 9.30  
Festal Matins with choir 11.15
- 31<sup>st</sup> December Eucharist & Covenant for the New Year  
*Numbers will be limited so in order to attend please book a place on [www.smaw8.org/services](http://www.smaw8.org/services). If you do not have access to a computer please phone Leonora or Petter.*

### Message from Mother Emma

At last, Christmas is coming, and as we prepare our hearts and minds throughout Advent for the coming of the infant Christ, we also see signs of God's light in the darkness of this year. The tree is now up in the church, and this morning we held a beautiful and touching Christingle with Year 2 from St Mary Abbots School.



This coming weekend, we are delighted to be able to offer Covid-safe versions of two very important features of St Mary Abbots' Christmas: at our 9.30 Eucharist on Sunday morning we will hear the stories of all the characters from the traditional Nativity play, told in a series of readings by children in the congregation.

At 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm, we have two socially-distanced performances of Handel's Messiah, part 1, with the St Mary Abbots Choir and the Purcell Players. Tickets are £20 and are available from Eventbrite or via the parish office, and there are still seats available at both performances. Please do come along and recommend it to others.

Looking further ahead, having spent much time reflecting on the best way to do our Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve, this will now be ONLINE at 4.30 pm instead of in church, so it can be accessible to more people and be totally Covid-safe for all ages. Please do share this information with anyone you know who might otherwise turn up at the church. Midnight Mass and all Christmas morning services will go ahead in the church building as normal. There will be no 8 am service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>, but the 9.30 and 11.15 am services will be held with a Cantor. In the week after Christmas, the church will be open on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> for private prayer and for our midday services, before we all meet again for our Epiphany services on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021!

Our prayers this week are with all schoolteachers and their pupils as a very busy and stressful term draws to a close, and we pray especially for St Mary Abbots School, for Mr Primrose and all his staff. They have worked so hard to keep the children both safe and well-taught and we are grateful to them all.

We hope very much to see you over the next few weeks, and pray that you will remain safe and well during the remainder of Advent and the Christmas season.

With my love & prayers, Mother Emma

# HANDEL'S MESSIAH

(Part 1)

A last chance to book for Handel's Messiah this Sunday at 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Featuring the first half of the Messiah sung by our wonderful professional choir and The Purcell Players. This will be the first time the Purcell Orchestra has played to a live audience since March, and we are very lucky to have one of the top Baroque oboists turning out for us, Mark Radcliffe. If you would like to book a ticket, which are £20, they are on our website: [www.smaw8.org/messiah-2020](http://www.smaw8.org/messiah-2020)

### Christmas Decorations in the church



A beautiful Christmas tree, very generously donated by Kensington Flower Corner, arrived on Tuesday. It was decorated by volunteer Ran Xu, Sam Kibble our virger & choir member and Leonora. Overseen remotely by Simon and pepped with hot chocolate from Mother Alice, we hope you find it a cheerful sight. We would like to thank Ray and his team for their frequent and kind donations throughout the year.

### Christmas Cards

There have been a number of visitors to the church searching for Christmas cards. Our usual supplier, Card Aid, who usually set up a shop at the back of the church had decided not to open any temporary Card Shops this year because of the risk of spreading the Covid virus. They are selling their cards on line, or e-cards, with all profits going to charity. [www.cardaid.co.uk/charity-christmas-cards.html](http://www.cardaid.co.uk/charity-christmas-cards.html). If you would prefer to buy cards in person there is a selection in Oxfam on High Street Kensington. We hope to have a good selection for you to choose from next year.

### Friends Membership Renewal

A reminder that December is the time to renew your annual membership of Friends of St Mary Abbots or, if you are not already a member, to join it. The Friends' fundraising efforts go towards maintaining the church and their current fundraising, including the £2000 raised during the Christmas Silent Auction, will go towards building new loos in the church with disabled access. This would mean no more portaloos at events and services in the church. The Friends arrange many events throughout the year which means getting to know other members of the congregation. Membership rates which have not increased for many a year are: Single £12; Joint £20; 10 year single; £100; 10 year joint £200; Unwaged £4. Cheques to "Friends of St Mary Abbots Church Kensington" and sent to the Parish Office, St Mary Abbots Parish, Vicarage Gate, W8 4HN or contact their Membership Secretary Ruth Barker on [ruthabarker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruthabarker@yahoo.co.uk) Should you wish to include an extra Christmas donation to the ongoing work of the Friends it would be gratefully received. If are interested in finding out more about the Friends work or becoming a member please do contact, Steve Atack, Found Patron at [steveattack@aol.com](mailto:steveattack@aol.com)

### PARISH & OTHER NEWS

#### Could you be someone's Father Christmas?

This year, although our Centre lunch will not be taking place, a list of present requests has now been received which hopefully you will help to buy. The presents will be delivered to our elderly and vulnerable neighbours across the borough by volunteers. Alex Jueguen has kindly agreed to take on the role of matching people to buy the presents with the desired gifts. A list of names and present requests can be found on the notice board by the church entrance, please sign up for this or contact Alex directly: [awjueguen@yahoo.com](mailto:awjueguen@yahoo.com)