

## In Our Prayers This Week

### Prayer for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Prayer for Christmas Eve

Eternal God, in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen



Nativity, St Mary, Star of the sea, Duluth. Flickr

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

<i>Those in acute need</i>	Fr David Michaels	Sebastian
Hillary Bardsley	Patrick North	Stephanie
(baby) Jude Bonnet	Maggie Rees-Oliviere	Yves
Lily Cameron	Mary Reeve	<i>Those in long-term need</i>
James Clark	June Scully	Vincenzo Blandini
Geraldine Henry	Hellen Mason- Spyr	Theo Bulkai
Gina Hrela	David Strong	John Cantlie
Joan Jackson	Jill Traynor	Joan Davies
Fiona McWatters	Bob	Annie Redmile
Anna Messim	Edward	James Worsley
Fr David Michaels	Michael	Conor

*and for all who have died recently*

Ann Bradley Elisabeth (Lys) Millership\_ Alison Steel  
Antoinette Tarlton-Cooper Raymond von Drehle Christine

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

Anthony Howard, 19<sup>th</sup> December John Banks, 20<sup>th</sup> December  
Evelyn Atask, 21<sup>st</sup> December Barry Luxton, 21<sup>st</sup> December  
Prudence Watt, 23<sup>rd</sup> December John Worsley, 24<sup>th</sup> December  
Sou Yen Crosthwaite, 24<sup>th</sup> December Gwen Robson, 25<sup>th</sup> December  
Tovah Cameron, 25<sup>th</sup> 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 [vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk) 0207 937 6032  
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Curate: Mthr Alice Ormondroyd  
Churchwardens: Guy Heald [guylheald@hotmail.com](mailto:guylheald@hotmail.com)  
Ed Warrick [er@smaw8.org](mailto:er@smaw8.org)  
Vestry: Simon Fitter (*Head Virger*) [virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk](mailto:virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk) 0207 937 5136  
Assistant Virger: Martina Sadovska [children@stmaryabbots.org.uk](mailto:children@stmaryabbots.org.uk)  
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Bellringing Secretary: David Holdridge [david.holdridge@ntfworld.com](mailto:david.holdridge@ntfworld.com) 07904 954 959  
Friends of St Mary Abbots: Steve Atask [friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk](mailto:friends@stmaryabbots.org.uk) 07585 705 281



## ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

*The church is open daily from 8.30am to 6pm  
& 10am - 6pm on Saturday*

When visiting the church it has become a requirement again that you wear a mask and use hand sanitiser when entering the church. Every other pew has been roped off in order to help social distancing. Please consider testing before attending.

### SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> December - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
9.30 am Holy Eucharist  
11.15 Choral Matins  
3 pm **Nine Lessons and Carols.**  
5.30 pm **Nine Lessons and Carols**

You can reserve a seat on the 'what is on page' of our website  
[www.smaw8.org/what-is-on](http://www.smaw8.org/what-is-on)

### MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
12 noon **Informal Eucharist** - Sunday on Monday  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in Church

### TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
12 noon **Holy Eucharist** (BCP)  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in Church

### WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**  
1.05 pm Meditation Group  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

### THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**  
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church



### FRIDAY 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom  
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**  
4 pm Children's Crib Service  
*Children are invited to come dressed as a Nativity Character*  
11 pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight  
**please reserve a seat for both services**  
[www.smaw8.org/what-is-on](http://www.smaw8.org/what-is-on)

### SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

8am Holy Eucharist (BCP)  
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



### SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

8am NO Holy Eucharist  
9.30 am Holy Eucharist  
11.15 am Matins  
5.30 pm NO Evensong

## Message from Mother Emma

Many thanks for all of your good wishes and prayers over the past week, and my thoughts and prayers have also been with you, and with the many others in our community also laid low by Covid at this time. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive and warm community, and my thanks go also to Fr Christopher and all the parish team for their care and hard work in my absence. I was so very sorry to miss the two performances of the Christmas part of Handel's Messiah last Sunday and have heard many wonderful reports. My warmest thanks to Mark Uglow, our Director of Music, the choir, the musicians and to all who came to support them.



*Like the sun in the morning sky, the Saviour of the world will dawn; like rain upon the meadows, the Christ will come down upon us.* [Common Worship Daily Prayer, Advent]

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma



We have been delighted to host a number of external school and charity Carol Services over the past couple of weeks, and, although we were sorry that the St Mary Abbots School Carol Service could not go ahead on Wednesday, we were very pleased that the individual classes were able to come over and record the pieces they had been working on to celebrate the coming of the baby Jesus, so that these could be shared in their families' homes for Christmas.

This Sunday we look forward very much to our traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols – repeated twice at 3 pm and 5.30 pm, so that we can maintain wise social distancing without needing to turn anyone away. Please do make sure that you have booked a seat on the 'what is on' page of our website. Our thanks to the Rudd Family and Santamaria Shirtmakers for their kind donations towards the music. It will be wonderful to celebrate the birth of Christ together in word and music with our professional choir.



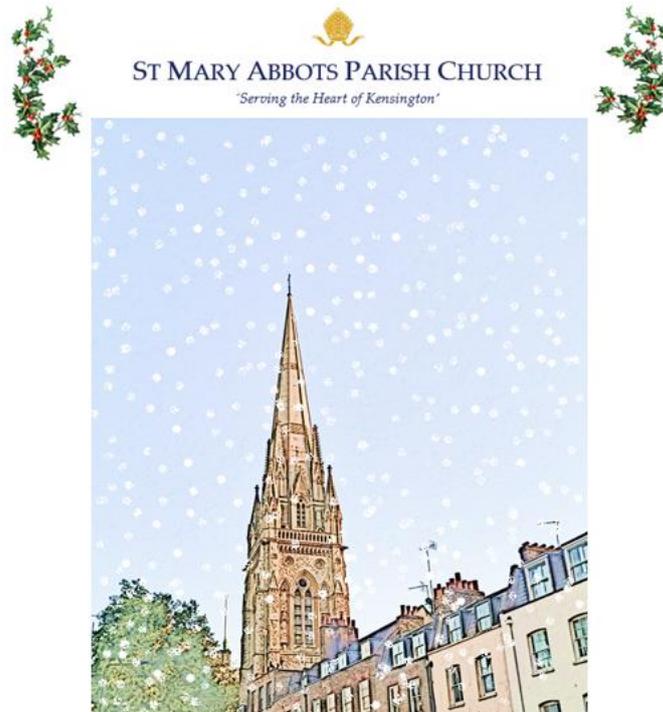
  
ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH  
*'Serving the Heart of Kensington'*

A Service of  
Nine Lessons and Carols  
by Candlelight  
*With our professional choir*

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
3 pm or 5.30 pm

All our services over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are listed on the 'Services - Sunday and weekday' page of our website and we much look forward to welcoming you. For the Christmas Eve the 4pm Children's Crib Service and the 11pm Midnight Mass we ask that you to reserve a seat, as we seek to keep our community as safe as possible. A reminder that you are now required to wear a mask in a place of worship, and we ask you to observe social distancing, hand-sanitising, testing advice, and when coming up for Communion, to note the spacing indicated by the crosses on the floor.

For Christians, Christmas can never be truly cancelled, as in joyful stillness we open our hearts to the coming of our Lord amongst us, but I do hope and pray that over the next ten days we shall find ways to celebrate this gift safely together, with one another or with those we love.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the clergy and staff at  
St Mary Abbots Church  
Kensington

## Carol Concerts at St Mary Abbots

This December we have been delighted to welcome a range of school and charities to the church for their annual carol concerts. Although several decided not to come this year due to covid we were delighted to host the ones who wanted to take advantage of the space offered in the church. These included Tommy's, a charity set up to tackle the effects of stillbirth, where the church was filled with many excited children, Father Christmas, trees dragged into the aisle for decorating, a snow machine and a snowball fight, Horatios' Garden, set up to tackle spinal injuries, whose celebrity readers ensured that they raised over £24,000, the Mayor's Carols in aid of Glass Door as well as the charming Downe House and St James. Putting on a large Carol Service means a lot of extra work for the parish staff, but to help these charities raise money, and to see happy staff, parents and children, some who have never been into our church makes it a hugely rewarding experience.

## Food Bank

The food bank is still in need of your donations, so please bring tinned or packets of food to the church on Sunday or to the vestry during the week. Please do not bring any ready meals as we have no way of storing them in the church, but longlife milk, tea, coffee, sugar, cereals, Noodles, dried pasta or rice, jars of sauce, tinned vegetables, soup, meat, fish, fruit, Jam, biscuits, snacks are very welcome. Loo paper, kitchen rolls and **UNUSED** cleaning fluids are also very useful. A full list can be found on our food bank page [www.smaw8.org/food-bank-support.html](http://www.smaw8.org/food-bank-support.html) Should you wish to donate financially you can send a cheque, made payable to 'Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust' and marked 'foodbank' on the reverse to: The Dalgarno Trust, 1 Webb Close Dalgarno Way, London, W10 5QB or you can donate directly on their website: [www.dalgarnotruster.org.uk](http://www.dalgarnotruster.org.uk)