

In Our Prayers This Week

Prayer for third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer for Christian Unity

We confess our hatred and prejudices and all else that hinders us from godly union and concord. May we henceforth be all of one heart and soul, united in one bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and with one mouth we give you glory. **Amen.**



Conversion of Paul. 14th Century predella by Luca di Tomme, Seattle Art Museum, image taken by Miguel Hermoso (CC BY-SA4.0)

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
Cynthia Dize	Hellen Mason-Spyry	Theo Bulkai
Geraldine Henry	David Strong	John Cantlie
Gina Hrela	Jill Traynor	Joan Davies
Joan Jackson	Bob	Annie Redmile
Fiona McWatters	Edward	James Worsley
Anna Messim	Michael	Conor

and for all who have died recently

Elisabeth (Lys) Millership	Kiron Mukarji	Alison Steel
Antoinette Tarlton-Cooper	Christine	

St MARY ABBOTS CHURCH CONTACTS

Church Website: www.smaw8.org

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

Vicar: Mthr Emma Dinwiddy Smith	vicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 6032
Associate Vicar: Fr Christopher Rogers	assocvicar@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0203 479 4737
Curate: Mthr Alice Ormondroyd	on maternity leave	
Churchwardens: Guy Heald	guyheald@hotmail.com	
Ed Warrick	er@smaw8.org	
Vestry: Simon Fitter (Head Virger)	virger@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 5136
Assistant Virger: Martina Sadovska	children@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
Parish Office: Petter Kringberg	parishmanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 2419
PA & events: Leonora Service, PA	pa@stmaryabbots.org.uk	020 3479 4731
St Mary Abbots Centre: Adam Norton	centremanager@stmaryabbots.org.uk	0207 937 8885

Director of Music: Mark Uglov	Music@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
Children's Work Admin: Martina Sadovska	children@stmaryabbots.org.uk	
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ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 23rd January 2022

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

When visiting the church please make sure that you:

- Wear a mask inside the building
- Sanitise your hands at the entrance
- Maintain 2 metre distancing from others
- Sit in the non-roped off pews

In order to minimise the spread of Covid please consider testing before attending a service or event.

SUNDAY 23rd January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

9.30 am Holy Eucharist

11.15 Choral Matins

5.30 pm Sung Evensong

MONDAY 24th January – Francis de Sales, Bishop

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

8.30 am Bible Study (online)

12 noon Informal Eucharist - Sunday on Monday

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in Church

TUESDAY 25th January – Conversion of Paul

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12 noon Holy Eucharist (BCP)

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in Church

WEDNESDAY 26th January – Timothy & Titus

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12 noon Holy Eucharist

1.05 pm Meditation Group

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in Church

THURSDAY 27th January

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

9.30 am School Eucharist – all welcome

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in Church

FRIDAY 28th January – Thomas Aquinas, Priest

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

9.30am Mini Abbots at St Mary Abbots Centre

12 noon Holy Eucharist

1.05 pm Royal College of Music lunchtime concert

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in Church

SATURDAY 29th January

12 noon Holy Eucharist (BCP)

5.30 pm Evening Prayer in Church

SUNDAY 30th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

8.00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

9.30 am Choral Eucharist

11.15 Choral Matins

5.30 pm Festal Evensong

Message from Mother Emma

I hope you are enjoying the winter sunshine, as we move towards the Feast of Candlemas in ten days' time – the day when traditionally, the lighting of gas street lamps would end for the winter because it was light enough to get home at 5 pm without them!



We shall be reviewing our current risk assessments next week, in the light of the ending of Plan B restrictions and will let you know then how things may change going forward.

In hope and anticipation that some of the simplified, stripped-down elements of our worship and community activities may be able to be restored before too long, we are asking you to reflect prayerfully on areas in which you feel you may be being called to serve the church and/or its community. While significant change may not happen immediately, we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to offer their gifts and skills in one of the many lay ministries which build up our parish life, so that we are able to celebrate the different ministries as each one is fully revived over the next few months. If you would like simply to volunteer in a more general sense, we would also be delighted to discern with you how your gifts may be put to good use in God's service.

In the meantime, you are always welcome at any of our services, from online Daily Morning Prayer, through the midday Eucharist every day to 5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church, as well as to all our Sunday services.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you", look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church and grant it the peace and unity of your kingdom, where you are alive and reign with the Father in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever" (Common Worship, Intercessions for Unity)

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

Confirmation and Confirmation Classes

Commissioning of candidates Sunday 6th March

At Confirmation we rejoice with candidates of all ages who have taken the next step on their journey with God and affirm the vows made on their behalf at their baptism for themselves, receiving the gifts of the Spirit through the laying-on of the Bishop's hands and anointing.

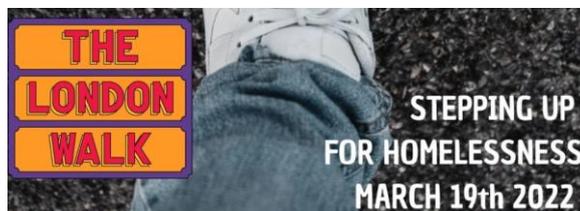
This year Confirmation will be held on Thursday 9th June 2022 by The Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Rev'd Dr Graham Tomlin. Eight preparations sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings for adults and on Wednesdays after school for candidates under 16, starting on 8th/9th March 2022, running to the end of term and then continuing until half-term in the summer. We run our sessions together with St Philip's, Earl's Court Road, and the Rev'd Pippa Turner, their Vicar, will share in leading the preparation with Mother Emma and Father Christopher. Sessions are likely to be a mixture of Zoom, and in person meetings at SMA or St Philip's.

If you are interested in Confirmation, either for yourself as an adult, or for your child, please do get in touch with one of the clergy in church or by emailing the vicarage office at pa@stmaryabbots.org.uk. If you have not yet been baptized, we can also arrange that as part of this journey and if you are already confirmed but would like to join the classes and make an Affirmation of Faith you are also welcome to join us.

Mini Abbots Toddler and Baby Group

Friday mornings during term time, 9.30am - 11am

The baby and toddler group is back up and running in the St Mary Abbots Centre. Held on Friday mornings, it is an excellent way to meet people or, for old hands, to meet after Christmas. To book a spot for you and your baby and toddlers please see our website: www.smaw8.org/mini-abbots-baby-group



Join the team for The London Walk, a fundraiser Saturday 19th March, evening

Join the St Mary Abbots team who will be walking with Glass Door to raise money and awareness of homelessness. A combined event arranged by The London Collective, a group made up of all London homeless charities, the marathon length walk through central London aims to bring colour, passion and fun: there is a dress code of bright colours and or a feather boa! There is a £20 entrance fee and each walker must raise £350 in sponsorship. If you would like to join the team for what will be a memorable evening please email or call Leonora in the vicarage office.

Christmas Giving – A thank you!

A very large thank you for those who bought, wrapped and delivered presents to the office in order to bring Christmas spirit to some of our most isolated neighbours. Huge thanks and admiration for Lucille who coordinated the operation, not just with our church, but also St George's and Christ Church, and who worked with the RBKC Social Workers to identify who is alone and would be cheered up by not just by a present, but also by being remembered. 61 presents ranging from slippers, towels, handbag, pjs, a table lamp, bedside radio, wristwatch with large numbers and lots of requests for warm jumpers went out in a Christmas bag. Drivers from Christmas past come forward last minute from all over West London, with very generous offers to deliver the gifts in time.

Lucille reports of her own experience delivering the presents in one of the social housing blocks: *"A resident came in off the street...he had gone out to get a snack. Ola had a quick chat with him and introduced us. She obviously knew him well and spoke to him like a friend. Ola then sent a staff helper out and next thing we knew, a man arrived to say thank you to us on behalf of all the residents. It was lovely - impressive and quite moving. Another way we can know that our efforts are worthwhile are from telephone calls I receive at home, sometimes starting in July, to remind me not to forget them... for us to save a place at our Christmas Day lunch party. Sometimes I find a series of voice messages left, asking to be on 'the list'.*

With luck we will be able to hold the lunch again next year, with the usual presents. As can be seen from Lucille's report above the presents and the being included makes a huge difference to people's lives, so thank you again for taking part.

PARISH & OTHER NEWS

Churches of Jerusalem and Christian Unity Talk Wednesday 26th January 2022, 8pm

Rev'd Andy Roland launches his new book, '**Journey through Lent with Jesus**' A book of daily readings and reflections for each day of Lent. It goes through the last eight days of Jesus' life. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-of-journey-through-lent-with-jesus-tickets-238481804497

Lent Appeal

This year the Diocese of London's Lent appeal will focus on Cultivating Compassionate Communities, with an emphasis of raising money to tackle Mental health and Isolation. The Charities they are supporting are 'Renew wellbeing', 'Resolved' and 'Be Headstrong'. Details can be found here: www.churchofengland.org/resources/mental-health-resources