

In Our Prayers This Week

Prayer for the baptism of Christ

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Prayer for Epiphany

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



Icon of the Baptism of Christ

Those in acute need

Laila Attia
Hillary Bardsley
Evelyn Ellison
Jill Traynor
Alexander Lamping
Monica Libby

Michael Turner

Buyile Phiri
Adam
Candice
Luke
Stephanie
Talia

Those in long-term need

Christopher Browne
Fr David Michaels
James Worsley
Conor

and for all who have died recently

Olivia Dawkins Tom Day Georgina Freedman
Catherine Wall Rosemary Watt

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

Barbara Gatehouse, 9th January Nigel Leyland, 12th January
Fredrick Lloyd, 14th January Joan Martin, 15th January

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

Church Website: www.stmaryabbots.org.uk

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ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH KENSINGTON

Sunday 8th January 2023

Welcome to St Mary Abbots

The Church is open daily from 8.30am to 6pm and from 10am - 6pm on Saturdays' and Bank Holidays

SUNDAY 8th January – **Baptism of Christ**

1st Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
9.30 am **Family Eucharist**
11.15 am **Choral Matins**
5.30 pm **Sung Evensong**

MONDAY 9th January

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
12 noon **Informal Eucharist** (Sunday on Monday)
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church
6 pm Homeless Ministry

TUESDAY 10th January

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
8.30 am **Bitesize Bible Group**
12 noon **Holy Communion (BCP)**
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

WEDNESDAY 11th January

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

THURSDAY 12th January – Aelred of Hexham

Archbishop of Canterbury
8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 am **School Eucharist** – All are welcome
2.30 pm **Rainbow Poetry Group: 'Snow & Ice'**
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

FRIDAY 13th January – Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
9.30 Mini Abbots at St Mary Abbots Centre
12 noon **Holy Eucharist**
1.05 pm Royal College of Music concert
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

SATURDAY 14th January

12 noon Holy Communion (BCP)
5.30 pm Evening Prayer in church

SUNDAY 15th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8.00 am **Holy Communion (BCP)**
9.30 am **Parish Eucharist**
11.15 am **Choral Matins**
5.30 pm **Taizé Eucharist**

Message from Mother Emma

First of all, may I wish any of you whom I haven't yet seen a very happy New Year on behalf of all of us on the clergy and staff teams at St Mary Abbots! It was such a privilege to share with you all in our glorious worship over the past month, and we are also so very grateful for all your kind prayers, cards, messages, emails and gifts over the Christmas period. We are extremely lucky to serve such a wonderful community.



On Friday we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, as the Magi finally arrive at the stable and worship the newborn King, marking the end of the Christmas season. We have taken down the Christmas decorations and now move into the evocative season of Epiphanytide.

This Sunday we are celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of Christ. Although the 9.30 Eucharist was previously advertised as a Baptism, it will now be more of a Family Eucharist, as we all come back together. This means there will not be separate children's provision this Sunday, through there will be activities as usual for them to do in the pews or in the Children's Chapel. Our full Sunday groups will return next week.



A piece of exciting news for this New Year is that for the next six months we shall be joined from time to time on the clergy team by the Revd Dr Cecilie Jorgensen Strommen. Revd Cecilie is a priest in the Lutheran Church of Norway, who was ordained in the Ecumenical Chapel in Geneva in 1992. Thanks to her husband, Wegger's, career in the Norwegian Foreign Service, Cecilie and her two

daughters have moved around the world, living in, among others, Israel, Geneva, New York, Washington DC, London and Oslo. Cecilie says she has been blessed to be able to serve as a priest in many of these places, including at St Edmund's Anglican Church in Oslo, the (Episcopalian) National Cathedral in Washington DC and most recently, St Olave's Norwegian Seamen's Church in London. Cecilie studied theology in Oslo, and also has a BA in Hebrew, a Masters in Sacred Theology and is a Doctor of Ministry, having written a thesis on the "Sanctification of the Ordinary". She is very drawn to the liturgies and language of the Church of England, and the way they embrace life, and since her daughter's marriage blessing was held at SMA in September (they live within the parish boundaries), has been a regular member of the Morning Prayer online group. We are delighted, that thanks to the shared Communion between the "Porvoo" Nordic Churches and the C of E, we have been able to obtain permission for Cecilie to officiate at our services. We look forward immensely to welcoming her at St Mary Abbots and learning from her wide experience during the remainder of their posting in London.

Please may I encourage you to read the newsletter carefully, as most of our regular activities will be starting up again next week, and there will be some new ones to watch out for! As we move forward into the New Year, we seek to live out our Mission Action objectives of Welcome, Discipleship and Outreach in God's name and to his glory.

King of kings and Lord of lords, making the true light to shine: lighten our darkness now and evermore that with our lips and in our lives we may praise you; for you are one God, now and for ever. Amen [Common Worship: Night Prayer for Epiphany]

With my love and prayers, Mother Emma

Bitesized Bible Group

Our new pre-school group will meet every Tuesday morning. Children are invited to come and hear a Bible story and then have a breakfast snack. Taking place in the children's chapel, sessions will start at 8.35 am and end at 8.45 am but only during term time. If you have any questions please contact Martina or come to the church on Tuesday to see what it is about – all are very welcome.

Children's Choir

During the Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve the children sang so beautifully during the service that we have asked them to sing again at our monthly Family Eucharist. If your child would like to take part please contact Mother Alice for details. A short practice will be held at 9am before the service starts and dates for the Family Eucharist can be found on our website.

Mini Abbots Returns

This Friday Mini Abbots baby and toddler group returns after the Christmas Holidays. Running from 9.30am to 11am in the Long Room at the St Mary Abbots Centre there are games, singing, Toys and activities and a good way of meeting other people in the area. Admittance is free and no need to book, however any small contribution towards printing or refreshments would be gratefully received. Please email Martina for more details.



Pastoral Outreach for St Mary Abbots Church

FOOD BANK

The food bank are in greater need of your donations than ever before so please keep the steam of wonderful donations coming in! Donation boxes can be found at each entrance to in the church. Please remember not to bring any fresh food or ready meals as we have no way of storing them. Should you wish to find out what they are short of or to donate financially their website: www.dalgarnotrust.org.uk

OTHER PARISH NEWS

2023 Unity Service, Kensington Council of Churches Thursday, 19th January, 2023 at 7pm

We are invited to join KCC's annual Unity Service at St Stephen's, Gloucester Road, London SW7 4RL at 7pm. Fr Matt Blake OCD, Sub-Prior at the Kensington Church Street Carmelite Priory will be preaching. Refreshments will be provided after the talk, so please email chrislfriends@aol.com so that she can prepare for the right numbers.

Career Opportunity

The Urban Nature Project Horticulture Apprenticeship is looking for someone who is interested in a professional career in gardening, landscaping or working with plants. This is a 2-year, paid entry level role starts in April 2023 – the deadline for entrance is 6th February. To find out more email Tom at wildlifegarden@nhm.ac.uk